



## CHRISTMAS CRACKER

A 12-PAGE FESTIVE SPECIAL - Starts on P15



## Shoppers given free parking to help trade

FREE parking is being offered at three main car parks in Oswestry every afternoon to tempt Christmas shoppers into the town. Central, Smithfield and Horsemarket car parks will be free of charge from 2pm until December 24.

Traders have welcomed Oswestry Town Council's decision to temporarily stop charges.

Some businesses have decided to stay open later than normal tonight, Thursday, for people wanting to buy gifts.

Carrie Morris from Booka Bookshop, in Church Street, is a member of Oswestry Chamber of Commerce. She said: "Anything that can be done to encourage people to shop in Oswestry must be applauded."

"This is great news. People picking up children from schools could come into Oswestry for an hour to shop beforehand and it is ideal for any Christmas shopper that wants to avoid paying high car parking charges in larger towns. A number of traders plan to stay open late this Thursday so that is another incentive for people to shop in Oswestry."

Town Mayor Councillor Martin Bennett urged locals and visitors to take advantage of free parking. "This is a real chance to support our local retailers and our local economy," he said.

The indoor market at Powis Hall is open all week and on Christmas Eve.

## Chronicle's festive wish

STAFF at the Oswestry & Border Chronicle are taking a well-earned Christmas break so you will not be receiving a copy of the paper next week.

The next edition will be ready on Thursday, January 3, packed with all the news and sport from over the holiday period.

May we wish all our readers and advertisers a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year, along with our thanks for your support during 2012.

## ONE-WAY CHANGE DEMAND IGNORED

DEMANDS for major changes to Welshpool's controversial gyratory road system have been ignored by a review panel.

A scrutiny review panel will today (Thursday) present findings to Powys County Council's cabinet calling for only minor changes to the one-way system.

Earlier this year Welshpool's Business Forum called for big changes, including a return to two-way driving in some areas.

And Welshpool Town Council has been critical of the time taken by the county council to conclude the review. It is understood that the study was suspended for five months between April and August due to county council elections.

Gullsfield councillor David Jones originally fronted the review but stood down on becoming Leader of the council.

The panel was Councillors Kelvin Curry, Viola Evans and Joy Jones, supported by Wynn Richards, scrutiny manager.

The review recommends that the county council gains the approval of Welsh Government Transport to carry out improvement work only - and has ignored the calls for parts of the road network to be returned to a two-way system.

The report calls for the removal of parking spaces near to junctions and for the introduction of herringbone parking on Broad Street.

It also calls on Welshpool Town Council to move the Monday street market back to the town hall car park. Town councillors were discussing the request last night (Wednesday).

## Blamed

The one-way system was introduced as a result of the redevelopment of the former livestock market and the arrival of Tesco's.

The county council's highways department and Welsh Government Transport were asked to consider how to deal with the additional traffic which would be generated by those developments and following a modelling exercise the 'figure 8' system was introduced.

The implementation of the one-way system has been blamed by traders for affecting their businesses.

The council undertook two surveys in 2012 which were a survey of traders and an on-street survey to gain perceptions about the impact of the system on businesses, pedestrians and drivers.

Details from Welshpool Town Council's Town Plan Review and the Stage 4 safety audit of the one-way system were considered.

"The working group has concluded that major changes to the system are unwarranted. However there are minor changes which could improve safety, ease of turning particularly for large vehicles, signage and traffic flow," said the report.

## Golf club is named the best in Wales

WELSHPOOL Golf Club has been named as club of the year.

Delighted club officials were in South Wales today, Thursday, to receive the prestigious award from the Golf Union Of Wales and club president Jim Mason described the honour as a remarkable achievement.

"We were shortlisted last year, which was great, but to be named as the best golf club in Wales is amazing news."

"It's a remarkable achievement and reflects years of hard work by the many volunteers who make Welshpool such a unique golf club," said Mr Mason.

"We are one of very few clubs to increase membership and our thriving junior section is the envy of many clubs."

"Hours of work have gone into improving the course this year, much of it voluntary, and we are immensely proud of what has been achieved on The Goffa."

The club has made good use of the Ryder Cup funding it received, improving facilities and expanding coaching for young golfers.

"This award recognises the uniqueness of Welshpool Golf Club," said Mr Mason. "Golf is a game which should be available for everyone and that's exactly the image we have created."

"We are immensely proud of that."

## Cable fault shuts school

PUPILS at Llanfyllin High School enjoyed a day off on Tuesday when the school was closed.

A damaged electric cable caused the closure. It is not known what caused the damage and the school, which caters for about 900 pupils, reopened yesterday, Wednesday, after workers spent the day on the site repairing the cable.

Carl Mincher, head-teacher at the school, said he did not know what damaged the cable. He said: "We closed for the whole day."

## Tree-mendous look for church



Church warden Sybil Steele takes a look at some of the Christmas trees on display at All Saints Church in Gobowen. Picture: Peter Flemmich.

A GOBOWEN church has a different look this festive season with more than 40 Christmas trees set up inside it.

The trees at All Saint's Church were installed for the opening of the church's two-day Christmas Tree Festival, launched by North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson.

Each of the trees has been donated by a

group or organisation and each has a donation box beside it.

Church warden Sybil Steele said: "We have about 40 trees this year and they are of all shapes and sizes, designs and colours."

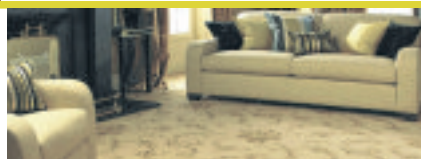
"It is quite a sight to see. It looks lovely to see them there and decorated. It is a great way to help good causes."

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# Top author to headline town's literary festival

by Graham Breeze

**THE AUTHOR of world-wide best-selling children's book War Horse will headline a Shropshire literary festival next year.**

Michael Morpurgo will formally open Oswestry's fourth annual Festival of the Word on March 10. His book War Horse has become a global phenomenon and has been transferred onto the London stage and turned into a hit movie which was directed by Stephen Spielberg.

## Author has re-printed book about guru Peter

A BOOK written by a Shropshire-based management writer is now being read in more than 40 countries following its distribution at a recent global conference in Austria.

Dr Peter Starbuck from Oswestry, one of the world's authorities on management guru Peter Drucker, was asked to mark the formation of the Drucker Society London - of which he is chairman - with a commemorative limited edition of his most celebrated work.

Dr Starbuck was invited to produce 300 copies of the book - *Peter F. Drucker: The Landmarks of his Ideas* - to hand out to delegates at the Global Peter Drucker Forum 2012 in Vienna.

Dr Starbuck said: "The conference was a great success, and the book was very well received."

Keynote speakers at the Forum, which attracted delegates from all over the world, included Paul Polman, CEO at Unilever - which services 150 million customers a day in 170 countries - and Nobel Laureate Dan Shechtman.

He will be joining a line up of authors poets and performers for the event from March 9 until March 19.

Former English Poet Laureate Andrew Motion will close the 10 day event with a poetry performance alongside the Endellion String Quartet at Holy Trinity Church on March 19 as part of the Oswestry School Recital Series.

The festival programme will be officially unveiled on January 16 at The Walls Restaurant from 6pm at a party attended by award-winning actress, radio playwright and 2012 Booker Long-Listed author, Rachel Joyce.

Joyce's funny best-selling debut novel, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, was one of the smash hits of 2012, gaining the ex stage actress turned author critical acclaim for her transfer from radio to print.

Festival's director, John Waine from The Best of Oswestry website, said: "We have another exceptional array of new and established literary, performance and theatrical talent lined up this year."

"It's an eclectic programme covering literature, film, adult and children's drama, poetry, song, journalism, creative writing workshops, school events, town events, fairly priced and free events, morning, noon and night events."

"We hope we've got something for everyone, appealing to all age ranges."

## Toys galore given to landlord



Dave McCarthy, landlord of the Plough Inn at Weston Rhyn, near Oswestry, with the collection of toys that the Plough regulars have donated for children at Hope House Children's Hospice in Morda. Picture: Simon Williams.

CHRISTMAS for youngsters at a children's hospice will be extra special this year thanks to regulars at a county pub.

The Plough Inn pub at Weston Rhyn has been swamped with toys which will be passed on to Hope House Children's Hospice at Morda near Oswestry.

The pub has been running its Christmas toy appeal for 12 years and every year the

initiative has got larger and larger. The scheme is overseen by publican Dave McCarthy and supported by bar manager David Burke.

Brand new toys handed in to the pub will be given to the children while the good-quality second hand toys are passed on to the hospice shop to be sold to create much needed revenue.

01691 668094

## Winner is crowned in festive cook-off

A WELSHPOOL woman has won a festive cooking competition that urges families to swap their traditional turkey dinner for Welsh beef this Christmas.

Organised by Hybu Cig Cymru Meat Promotion Wales (HCC) as part of their campaign to encourage people to switch to local beef, Elinor Bright saw off hundreds of applications to win the challenge with her roast sirloin of Welsh beef with a Peralas cheese, sundried tomato and pine nut stuffing.

Elinor, 23, a former pupil at Berriew Primary School and Welshpool High School, was chosen as one of four finalists to compete in a cook-off at Llanerch Vineyard in Cardiff on December 5, where she wowed a panel of judges before winning the week-long public vote.

"I am delighted to win this competition and am really grateful to everyone who voted for me," explained Elinor, who now lives in Llanidloes.

Her recipe will appear on [www.eatwelshbeef.co.uk](http://www.eatwelshbeef.co.uk) as well as Facebook and Twitter to inspire others in their festive cooking.

## Santa's grotto will be at castle

CHRISTMAS craft stalls and a Santa's grotto will be among the attractions at Whittington Castle near Oswestry on Saturday.

The fun runs from 10am to 4pm, entrance is free, except for the grotto which costs £3.50, and is open from 1pm to 4pm.

## Date changed

THE date of Oswestry Farmers' Market on Bailey Head has been changed. It has been brought forward a week and will now take place tomorrow (Friday).

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## NEWS

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## Thirty in support of Muslim centre bid

OSWESTRY residents have largely snubbed a call from the British National Party to object to plans for the town's first Muslim centre – and instead written in numbers in support of the project.

Nearly 30 people have aired their backing for plans for the conversion of a 19th century former Presbyterian Church on Oswald Road with five objections received at the time of going to press.

British National Party bosses urged residents to write to Shropshire Council to object to the plans for the building which is currently used by a furniture business.

The Oswestry Muslim Society has applied for planning permission to change the use of the building and use it for prayer meetings.

Supporter Iris Gordijn in a letter to Shropshire Council said: "It's a very good thing that at long last Muslims will get their own religious and social centre in Oswestry."

Supporter Andrew Meredith said: "Bringing an unused building back into use can only be good thing for the town. The fact that it is to be used as a Muslim Centre is immaterial."

Sarah Gibson said: "I support Oswestry's Muslim community in their wish to have a centre and deplore the BNP's campaign against it."

Shropshire Council hopes to decide by January 11.

## £1,000 is raised at coffee event

A COFFEE morning held in Oswestry in aid of research into motor neurone disease raised more than £1,000 organisers have said.

The fundraiser at the Memorial Hall on December 1 raised a total of £1,025.

Organisers have thanked everyone who supported the event.

# Investigation opened after teen dies in care home fire

by Graham Breeze

**AN investigation is under way following the death of a teenage girl after a fire at a care home near Oswestry.**

The 17-year-old girl, who has not been named, was pronounced dead at the scene of the blaze in the village of Bagley Marsh on Saturday night. The fire broke out in a bedroom of the home owned by Bryn Melyn Care.

The incident happened at about 11.30pm. The teenager, from Walsall, was pronounced dead at the scene about an hour later. Two adults who were in the property were not hurt.



The home owned by Bryn Melyn Care.

Steve Nevitt, managing director of Bryn Melyn Care, said: "Everyone has been devastated to learn of the death of a young person in our care in a fire at one of our registered children's homes in Shropshire."

"Our thoughts go out to her family and friends, as well as the care, education and clinical staff who have worked so closely with her during her time with us."

"We have instigated a full internal review. We will not be making further comments until the facts have been established."

### Troubled

The company has provided specialist residential services for troubled young people for more than 27 years. Mr Nevitt added that this was the first occasion on which something of this nature had happened.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird confirmed that the teenager was in the care of the local authority, which placed her at Bagley Marsh.

He said: "We would wish to express our deep sympathy to the family and friends of the young woman who died in a fire at Bagley Marsh residential home."

Police said the death was being treated as unexplained but no-one else was thought to be involved.

Chris Kowalik, West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman, said an ambulance and hazardous area response team attended.

He added: "Sadly, it quickly became apparent to crews that nothing could be done to save a female and the patient was confirmed dead at the scene."

## Concert helps charity

A WINTER concert involving pupils from a school in Oswestry raised almost £400.

Haydn Jones, a music teacher at Woodside School, organised the concert at Oswestry Parish Church Centre, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The event raised £384 which will be used to support cancer patient and their families.

## Festive dolls go up a peg or two



Arts volunteer Emily Dobson, with the Christmas peg dolls. Picture: Peter Flemmich

PEG dolls have returned to Oswestry but instead of their summer sporting gear they are now wearing a more festive costume.

Qube, based in Oswald Road, has introduced the new editions after its recent successful exhibition of Olympic peg dolls in August.

When the gallery first opened 10 years ago it filled the space with a similar collection containing 3,000 dressed pegs.

As part of birthday celebrations this year the gallery staff decided to create a new exhibition with an Olympic theme.

It proved so popular that they have now

created festive peg doll packs for people to design their own Christmas dolls at home. There are also two on display at the gallery.

Charlotte Jackson, arts co-ordinator at Qube, said: "Visitors to the gallery really love these new peg dolls and are buying packs to give away as presents or make their own."

Tonia Parry, also from the gallery, said: "People love them and they are going down really well."

"They are a one-time thing and could be something to do in the holidays. It is for all the generations."

## Group in reminder to elderly over heat

A VOLUNTEER army in Oswestry which looks after the elderly and vulnerable is reminding people to keep warm over the winter months.

Members of Osyteers, or 'Oswestry Volunteers', are calling on people to look out for older members in their community and have issued some tips on how to keep warm.

These include heating the living room to 18 to 21C and heating all rooms used during the day. People are also advised to set heating timers to come on before getting up in the morning or before they go to sleep at night.

Mike Lade, founder of Osyteers, said: "Keeping warm can help prevent colds, flu or more serious health problems like pneumonia."

"In very cold weather set the heating to come on earlier rather than turning the thermostat up, then you won't be cold as you wait for your home to heat up."

"Official figures show there were 25,700 excess winter deaths in 2010/11."

He said if anyone needed help with heating their home they could call the Home Heat Helpline on 0800 810 8303.

## Store collection helps lifeboats

THE Royal National Lifeboat Institute held a collection in a supermarket in a town in Shropshire and raised £467.

The money was raised after the collection in the Morrisons store in Oswestry.

A quiz night will be held in the Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry on February 21, with people meeting at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

All are welcome to go along, enjoy a night out and raise money for the lifeboat charity.

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**NEWS**

# Reservoir will cater for town

**A NEW reservoir to be built in Oswestry will ensure the town has plenty of water for an urban village being planned on its outskirts, Severn Trent has promised.**

Town councillors feared that the development south of Oswestry could be thwarted by a lack of infrastructure, including the water.

But Severn Trent said it would start work on a new reservoir in the new year and will put more waste water systems into the area when the need arises.

The reservoir on Mount Road is part of an £11 million investment in Oswestry by Severn Trent.

**by Sue Austin**

The ambitious plans by the water company include building a new reservoir to store treated water for Oswestry.

A new, four million litre reservoir will be created on the site of the town's old and much smaller, low level reservoir on Mount Road at a cost of £3.5 million.

A planning application has been submitted to Shropshire Council and, once given the go ahead, work on site is expected to start early next year. Once in place and working, the water company will then abandon the 70-year-old high level reservoir.

In a letter to Oswestry Town Council, Severn Trent water manager David Essex said the new, covered water reservoir would cover the growth in the town, up to 4,000 new homes. This is significantly larger than the local authority estimate and also the figure of 2,300 that the town council is concerned about.

"We believe that the clean water system is capable of dealing with all currently forecast growth."

"A new reservoir will provide greater security of supply, improved water quality and allow lower chlorine levels," he said.

The £11 million programme also includes a £4.1 million scheme to supply Oswestry with water from boreholes south of Shrewsbury, reducing the unpopular water from the Shelton waterworks to just 10 per cent.

● **Tasting - See Page 8**

## Fairytale theme at castle



**Ben Walker, conservation and interpretation volunteer at Powis Castle in Welshpool, dressed as the Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland. Picture: Simon Williams.**

VISITORS to Powis Castle in Welshpool can experience a magical fairytale-themed Christmas thanks to special decorations.

From Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty indoors to Red Riding Hood and Alice in Wonderland in the garden, the decorations at the castle bring classic fairytales to life.

Ben Walker, from the castle, said: "We have so much going on at the castle over Christmas and New Year and this is espe-

cially the case with the fairytale decorations."

The castle is open everyday except Christmas Day until December 31. Father Christmas will be in his grotto on Saturday and Sunday, 1pm to 3pm, at a cost of £2 per child.

Mr Walker added: "You can also come and write those important thank you letters to Santa from December 26 to 30, from 11am in the shop."

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6pm-7pm Roman Road Sports Centre, Longden Rd, SY30DW  
Thursday Oswestry Starts Jan 10th  
9.30-10.30 Leisure Centre, Shrewsbury Rd, SY114QB  
12.30-1.30 Bodytech Gym, Salop Rd, SY112NR  
8.15-9.15pm Leisure Centre, Shrewsbury Rd, SY114QB

## Hill expedition aids students

STUDENTS at a school in Shropshire took to the Welsh hills for their latest Duke of Edinburgh adventure.

The pupils at the Marches School in Oswestry, who are aiming to complete their silver award, undertook a practice expedition ahead of their main challenge in the spring. It saw them take on a walk to Llanarmon before heading down for the night and then heading out into the wild Berwyn landscape the following morning.

The pupils split into two, heading to separate destinations on the other side of the hills. Carrying their kit in rucksacks, the first arrivals at Cynwyd completed the 18 kilometre walk in record time while the other group headed over moorland and through forest towards Glynndyfrdwy.

Alan Braddock, Duke of Edinburgh Award co-ordinator at the school, said: "This training venture was a prelude to the practice expedition which is scheduled to take place in the same area in the spring."

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## NEWS

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## Crews are trained in water rescues

FIREFIGHTERS from Welshpool have been given specialist training to become swift water rescue technicians.

The training gives firefighters the skills needed to enter swift water, such as flooding, and carry out rescues.

Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said the training would benefit communities during flooding and keep firefighters safer.

Welshpool fire stations is now part of a pool of six able to deliver the emergency response.

Each has been equipped with specialist personal protection and technical rescue equipment, including a four metre inflatable craft.

Wayne Price, of the fire service, said: "The training involved an intensive four day course at Llandysul, South Wales, which incorporated various practical and theoretical sessions covering many water related topics.

"These included river dynamics and features, contact rescues in water using recognised methods, the use of boats on a tether and technical rope skills to conduct various water rescue techniques in water and from the river bank."

He added: "The personnel worked extremely hard to achieve their status as an SRT team, backed by a very supportive command team."

## British squad place for keen sailor Chelsea, 15



Chelsea Furber, 15, from The Marches School and Technology College in Oswestry. Picture: Simon Williams.

AN OSWESTRY schoolgirl's dream of Olympic sailing success has been boosted after she was selected to be part of a national development programme.

Chelsea Furber, a Year 11 student at The Marches School, has been selected as a member of the British Junior Development Squad for catamaran sailing.

Having started her sporting career on smaller boats while in year six at primary school, Chelsea has quickly moved up the ranks and is a member of one of only eight boats selected for the squad that have their sights firmly set on the 2020 Olympics.

The 15-year-old sails every weekend during the summer months with Bala Catamaran Club and during the winter, with the Royal Yachting Association Youth Club (RYA), as part of the British Junior Development Squad.

Next year will also see her competing on the national circuit, hopefully including taking part at the Euro Cat on Lake Garda, Italy.

Currently sailing a Spitfire, an Olympic class boat, Chelsea is the only Shropshire member and one of only a handful of girls in the development squad.

She says she is extremely lucky to currently be receiving one-to-one mentoring from an older, female, fellow sailor, who is currently working towards the 2016 Olympics in Brazil.

Chelsea said: "I really enjoy sailing, it's a great hobby, with a really good social side."

"I aim to carry on training hard and am ultimately aiming at the 2020 Olympics."

"In regards to a career, I would like to pursue my passion for sailing and have been looking into the possibility of chartering boats around the Caribbean as I think that would be a pretty nice job."

Neal Martin, director of sport at The Marches said: "This is a fantastic achievement and her success clearly demonstrates Chelsea's dedication and commitment."

"Hopefully we will be cheering her on in future Olympics."

by Graham Breeze

## Sufferer says thanks for aid

A WOMAN who suffered an epileptic fit in the middle of a street has thanked passers-by who went to her aid.

Kathleen Foster, 27, of Woodside in Oswestry, fell ill when she and her mother went to catch a bus in Mount Pleasant Road in Shrewsbury, last Friday evening.

Her mother, Julia Dawes, said Kathleen, who has suffered from epilepsy for years, suddenly started to fit.

"She fell and hurt her shoulder and I was really struggling to cope," she said. "People were really kind and stopped to help. They included an off-duty firefighter, off-duty police officer and an off-duty nurse."

She said an ambulance was called and Kathleen was taken to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital.

Miss Foster said: "I wish to thank the kind people who stopped to help me after I suffered an epileptic seizure. Also thanks to the paramedics and staff at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

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10.30 am. Festival Eucharist

Music: St Albans Service - Archer Hodie Christus natus est - Sweelinck

All Welcome



**NEWS****NEWS****in brief****Castle is host to festive craft fairs**

A CASTLE in a village near Oswestry is hosting a series of craft events.

Staff at Whittington Castle are urging people to get into the festive spirit and do a spot of gift shopping with them.

Every Sunday on the run up to Christmas it has been playing host to craft stalls selling various items. The event runs from 10am-4pm.

On Sunday Santa will be in his grotto for the last time at the Castle from 1pm-4pm. Each child will get a certificate and present for £3.50 each.

To book a stall call (01691) 662500.

**Free help with the modern age**

FREE help will be available next month to Oswestry folk confused by their Kindles and driven mad by their iPads.

Staff, volunteers and representatives from Micro Plus Computers will attend a Gadget Guru event on January 23 at Oswestry Library.

Appointments can be booked from 3pm up to 7pm by calling (01691) 677388 or by e-mailing [oswestry.library@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:oswestry.library@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Festive market**

A CHRISTMAS farmers' market will be held on Bailey Head in Oswestry tomorrow, Friday, from 9am to 2pm.

# School could gain academy status as early as next year

**OFFICIALS at a primary school in Oswestry believe it could be given academy status in the next couple of months.**

Woodside Primary School, in Gittin Street, is run by Shropshire Council but school governors have been working to transform it into an academy.

This means it would no longer be part of Shropshire's education system but instead be directly funded by central government.

Alan Cooper, chairman of the school governors, said the school was close to getting the status, possibly by early 2013. He stressed Woodside was not anti-Shropshire Council.

by **Graham Breeze**

## Club gives out festive funds

ROTARIANS based on the Shropshire/Mid Wales border have had a busy time raising money and donating grants in recent weeks.

Members of Borderland Rotary Club were recently welcomed as the guests of Leonard Cheshire Care Home at Pontfadog and agreed to make a donation of £500.

Rotarians also collected 350 shoeboxes from local primary schools and Oswestry School which are on their way to children's homes, hospitals and old folks homes in Eastern Europe.

The group is also donating to the district's partnership with a Brazilian Rotary Club and will be distributing fabric crochets to help the campaign to end polio.

The Oswestry Christmas Parade raised £543 from shops and businesses, £1,839 from the collection and £100 from Veolia.

This year's carol service will be held at Christ Church in Rhydycroesau on December 19.

"They are a good authority," he said. "We know funding is moving away from local facilities and into central government."

"Having academy status gives us more of an opportunity to spend money. We want to put as much money as possible into the learning and teaching in the school."

"We know it is a good school already. It is about doing what we do but even better."

Mr Cooper said parents were in 'full agreement' with it.

Shropshire Councillor Joyce Barrow said: "I would like to wish everyone at Woodside every success in the future."

"Having been a governor at Woodside School for a number of years I know how committed everyone, under Rob McDevitt's headship, is to make the school the best it can be. I am sure the school will thrive."

A spokesman for the Department of Education confirmed the school had applied for academy status and it was working towards a conversion next year.

Shropshire Council's safe and confident communities scrutiny committee discussed the development of school collaborations and federations, academies and free schools.

A report to the committee said: "As pressures on schools increase, and as the local authority's funding for the provision of education services decreases, it will be important for very local and Shropshire-wide arrangements for collaboration and partnership to develop."

## Lucky Robyn likes her prize



Robyn Hawkins was chosen at random for the prize in an online competition organised by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

A LUCKY Facebook fan from Oswestry has a new Kindle eBook for Christmas after giving the thumbs-up to a fire safety campaign.

Robyn Hawkins was chosen at random for the prize in an online competition organised by North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The fire service commissioned theatre and performance students from Glyndwr University in Wrexham to produce short clips promoting student fire safety and these were posted to its YouTube and Facebook pages.

The five videos produced were then used in a Facebook competition where viewers were encouraged to 'like' their favourite with one 'liker' winning a brand new Kindle.

Newly graduated teacher Robyn was the lucky Facebook 'liker' picked at random and was presented with a brand new Kindle.

She said: "I've recently graduated from Glyndwr and I think that the videos are a great way to get these important messages through to students."

## Memorial to fallen gives way to homes

HOUSES are to be built on playing fields that serve as a memorial to almost 100 soldiers, including war poet and Shropshire lad Wilfred Owen.

Tranmere Rovers football club is to build 90 homes on the Ingleborough Road memorial playing fields next to the ground, despite a massive campaign to stop the development.

The playing fields were dedicated as a 'living war memorial' to Wilfred Owen and 87 other soldiers who served in the first world war.

Owen, who was born in Oswestry but lived in Birkenhead as a child, is recognised at Britain's foremost war poet. He died on the battlefields of France days before the end of World War I.

Wirral Council approved the club's application to build up to 90 houses on the playing fields in Birkenhead, in October.

The building work was postponed while the Department for Communities and Local Government decided whether to scrutinise the application.

But Eric Pickles, the Communities Secretary, has now decided not to intervene.

The playing fields were set aside by the council in the aftermath of World War I in memory of 88 old boys of the Birkenhead Institute Grammar School.

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## NEWS

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## Healthier fast food on menu at college

CATERING staff at an Oswestry college have proved that American-style fast food doesn't have to be unhealthy.

Kitchen workers at Walford and North Shropshire College held an American theme food day in the refectory at its Oswestry campus.

But instead of the usual waistband-bursting fare, the staff offered low fat and healthy options of all the traditional fast foods.

Included on the menu were take-aways including bacon and cheese burgers, hot dogs, jacket potatoes and fried chicken.

The staff, employed by 7 Day Catering and who have been awarded platinum healthy eating awards, are always looking to find new and interesting ways to vary the menu.

Mark Luker, catering manager, said: "I am really proud of my staff. They always work very hard to ensure we offer healthy, wholesome food."

## Casino at pub

A CHARITY casino night will be held in a pub and restaurant in Oswestry on New Year's Eve. Oswald's Cross will hold the ticket-only event with a donation to Great Ormond Street Hospital. For more details call (01691) 663180.

# Beauty queen is at home in high heels or football boots

by Graham Breeze

**SHE IS equally at home modelling a posh frock on the catwalk or getting stuck into a tackle on the football field.**

Charlotte Turner is as happy putting on her make-up and wearing the latest fashions as she is lacing up her football boots to play for the TNS Under-18 ladies football team.

Now with one major beauty competition under her belt, the 16-year old from Pant is on the look out for others.

The teenager, a pupil at the Marches School, recently returned from the Miss Teen Great Britain competition in Blackpool after being named Miss Teen Shropshire. There she had to make appearances in formal, evening and fashion wear.

Although she didn't win the national final, Charlotte said it made her realise it was something she really wanted to do.

## Pageants

However she said it was not like the very staged catwalk beauty pageants of the past.

"It was great. We all had to learn a dance routine to perform at the start of the competition and we chatted to the judges about our lives and what we enjoy doing."

"I told the judges about my football and being centre back for the TNS under-18 ladies team."

Earlier this year she travelled to Barcelona with the team for a girls' football competition.

She is also busy studying for her GCSE exams, among them PE and the sciences.

"I want to train to be a physio," she said.

However she desperately wants to continue taking part in events like Miss Teen Shropshire.

"I would really like to get into more competitions, perhaps Miss Galaxy, which has already had a winner from this area."



Charlotte Turner.



Charlotte also plays centre back for the TNS ladies team.

## Removal of special measures at school

EIGHTEEN months after a damning Estyn inspection report Ysgol Maesydre in Welshpool has been removed from Special Measures.

The school received a letter this week stating: "Ysgol Maesydre is judged to have made good progress since the section 28 inspection. We will now remove the school from the list of schools requiring special measures."

"There will be no further Estyn monitoring visits in relation to this inspection."

Derek Simms, the chairman of governors said: "This is fantastic news for all involved with Ysgol Maesydre and is the culmination of a huge team effort."

"During the past 18 months there has been a transformation at Ysgol Maesydre. A revitalised governing body has worked closely with dedicated and hard working teaching and support staff in order to bring about change."

## Pre-school helps

MORDA Pre-School is helping Kenyan orphans by raising money to buy desks. More than £1,000 was raised at a Robbie Williams tribute night organised by staff and committee members. The project is run by Bill and Lynne Morris of Ellesmere.

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## COMMENT

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# One-way review disappointing, but no surprise

**THE people of Welshpool waited months to hear the results of a review into the town's one-way system and now the report has finally arrived it's a damp squib.**

Are we surprised?

Ever since the controversial gyratory system was introduced traders have been complaining of lost business, clogged streets, queuing traffic and confused motorists.

But did anyone really believe that hundreds of thousands would be spent turning the system upside down again? Surely not!

Today a scrutiny review panel, made up of councillors with no connection to Welshpool, will present recommendations to Powys County Council for minor tweaks to the system. The proposals will see street parking spaces removed close to junctions and a herringbone parking system introduced.

Welshpool Town Council has been critical of the system and of the time it has taken the

**BREEZE  
ABOUT  
TOWN**

with Graham Breeze



panel to make its recommendations. Now the council has been put on the spot.

The panel has called on the town council to remove the Monday market from the street to improve safety and increase parking spaces. I look forward to the reaction to that one.

So calls for a return to two-way driving in some areas have fallen on deaf ears but most importantly there are no recommendations for improving the town's biggest bottleneck where traffic from Union Street merges with Church Street.

How could anyone who has studied the town centre not appreciate the Church Street issues?

Perhaps it will come as a surprise to these councillors then that two businesses in Church Street have announced closure this month.

It's also no surprise that the Tesco car park is packed. History will show that Welshpool sold its soul to a major supermarket chain.

POWYS Council cabinet members are to be congratulated for funding free parking in the run-up to Christmas from their allowances.

But I wonder if any of the cabinet members are aware of the early morning campaign parkers are being subjected to by over zealous wardens. Parking is free from 10am and many have assumed that it would be OK

not to ticket their cars between 9 and 10am – wrong. Welshpool's car parks have been targeted and there have been plenty of red faces for drivers who paid the penalty for parking too early.

The spirit of Christmas only extends so far it seems.

COMPLAINTS have flooded in that people were unable to vote for BBC Sports Personality of the Year on Sunday night because of the volume trying to get through.

Why did the BBC restrict voting to such a short period of time?

Couldn't voting have continued throughout the programme?

I've been glued to this programme since the arrival of the first black and white television in my home over 50 years ago but would have to say that this was the best ever. Bradley Wiggins you are a hero.

# Remixed water blend goes down well with residents

by Sue Austin

**IT has taken a decade of campaigning and complaining, but at long last the people of Oswestry are looking forward to tasting their drinking water.**

And, during a recent test by Severn Trent, residents admitted that the new blend of H2O was 'not bad'.

The water company brought samples of the water that within weeks will be running through the taps in the town to a drop-in session at the Guildhall.

Staff also talked to customers about the planned changes to water blending arrangements.

Ten years ago the company stopped using the water from its reservoir at Llanforda on the edge of the town and instead took water from the River Severn along a 15-mile pipeline from Shrewsbury to Oswestry.

The change received wide criticism with local people saying the new supply was 'disgusting' and tasted of chlorine.

A water forum was set up by Oswestry Town Council and, after investigation, Severn Trent admitted that the chlorine levels were too high. Now the company plans to change the supply again.

David Essex, from Severn Trent, said: "We've learned that the local community in Oswestry likes to understand what we're doing and have the opportunity to feed back on our plans. Therefore, we're very keen to keep the community up-to-date."

"Today, customers in Oswestry receive a blend of water that is made up of around 50 per cent borehole water, taken from the site in Pentre near Nesscliffe, and 50 per cent from the River Severn, which is treated at our Shelton plant, in Shrewsbury."

"The new blending arrangements are planned to be introduced in February."

"They will see Oswestry's water supply being made up of 50 per cent water from



Margaret Hughes, from Oswestry.

Pentre and 40 per cent from Eytton boreholes, with the remainder of the supply being made up of water from Shelton.

"After the new arrangements are in place, the water will have a more stable blend, which will enable us to further reduce the chlorine levels. As a result of this change, customers may prefer the taste, although the change in the hardness of the water will be very small."

"We are also putting in place plans to build a new covered reservoir which we hope will be completed in 2014."

"If the planning process is approved and we are able to construct the new covered reservoir, we will be able to lower chlorine levels even more."

As well as the current tap water and the new supply from Severn Trent, the Chronicle offered people a glass of Brecon Carreg spring water from mid Wales.



Malcolm Harding tries the water.

One of the first to take the taste test was Oswestry pensioner Margaret Hughes.

Mrs Hughes, from Caer Road, said she had a glass of tap water to drink every morning.

"I have had no problem with the tap water especially when it is cold. But this new water is very nice. I do prefer it."

However, Mrs Hughes was not keen on the bottled water.

## Taste

"Bottled water is not for me. I really don't like it, it doesn't have a taste."

Malcolm Harding said he was horrified when he returned to Oswestry six years ago to find the water supply had changed.

"The old water from Llanforda was delightful water. But the stuff we have now is just disgusting."

He added: "This new water is not bad at



Eve Humber takes the taste test.

all. It is not as good as I remember the original water, but it's not bad."

Eve Humber, who runs VTM Graphics in the Powis Hall indoor market, said: "The new water is very good. It is certainly on a par with the bottled water and much better than the current tap water."

"It is very clear and tastes good. I just hope that it does not scale the kettle."

Jean Roberts said she had had to buy water filters since the water was changed a decade ago.

"I only drink bottled water but use tap water for the kettle," she said. "But it tastes awful if you don't filter it."

"The new supply does seem to taste better and I hope that it will mean that I won't have to spend money on filters any more."

However, Mrs Roberts said that when it came to drinking water, she preferred the bottled sort.

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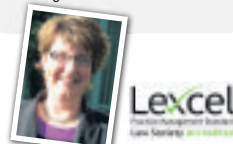
**Q:** My husband is a selfish verbal bully who always puts himself before me and our four children. I would like to divorce him but I don't have a job and I cannot see him giving up our beautiful house in order that he can put a roof over our heads somewhere else. My friend says he cannot make us homeless but I am not so sure. Where do I stand?

**A:** Rest assured you and your children will not be made homeless. Being married gives you certain rights to remain in the former matrimonial home until financial matters between you and your husband have been settled. This is not necessarily the case with unmarried co-habiting couples however.

During divorce proceedings account will be taken of both yours and your husband's circumstances and you will both be asked to make a full and frank voluntary disclosure of your financial affairs. If your husband is unwilling to provide voluntary financial disclosure you can obtain an Order from the Court to force this. You can apply for Legal Aid funding, based on your financial circumstances, but from April 2013 the eligibility conditions for such funding are changing. This means many people will lose out on funding after that date, so it may be preferable to start any intended proceedings prior to then.

Once voluntary financial disclosure has taken place your lawyer will advise on the best outcome for you, taking into account certain criteria under Section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act. This includes length of marriage, standard of living, ages of you, your husband and your children, income, earning capacity and potential earnings of both you and your husband, together with the contributions made by both of you (including such as looking after the home whilst your husband worked) and who it is proposed the children of the family will live with.

Further information relating to this question is available from Caroline Gregg, a Trainee Legal Executive with GHP Legal. For information relating to any other legal matter please call GHP Legal on 01691 659194, visit [www.ghplegal.co.uk](http://www.ghplegal.co.uk) or attend one of our FREE legal diagnostic clinics every Wednesday 12-3pm (no appointment necessary). GHP Legal holds the Law Society Lexcel Quality Mark Accreditation.



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## LETTERS

## Amazed at reach of mobile phones

MOBILE phones have brought about a revolution in the way we communicate and it's hard to believe that it's only 20 years since the first text message was sent.

Now everyone is doing it, even old fogies.

Most of us haven't a clue how it works, we just use it. It's something to do with those tall masts they put up, that folks object to although they use their mobiles, and satellites up in space.

We can talk to friends in Australia and we take it all for granted.

Our grandparents would be amazed.

Computers and mobile phones have brought about a revolution in business and social life, and as with every other human invention it is used and abused.

## 20 years

Politicians and stars squirmed when their private text messages were broadcast for all the world to read, and to think that all this has happened in just 20 years.

Yet 2,000 years ago an even more amazing revolutionary communications network was set up.

Imagine being able to reach the control centre of the universe.

God sent His son to personally instigate it. It's an instant two-way system and it's cost-free.

The messages and the music are just out of this world.

You sometimes may get orders which are difficult to accomplish, but if you keep in touch you can get all the help you need.

Of course, conditions apply when joining, it's not open to proud, arrogant or conceited people, and a loving, obedient attitude is essential to keeping connected.

RON JONES  
Oswestry

## Solution to cat problem

I GET annoyed when I read about cat charities asking for money.

There are obviously too many cats about.

So, instead of taking money away from more important causes, it might be an idea to have stray cats put to sleep.

M ROBERTS  
Oswestry

## Summer of 76 was not the 'norm'

THE summer of 1976 was hot and dry for a few weeks.

It was attributed to the greenhouse effect and we were told that hot dry weather would be the norm in Britain and many species of wildlife from hot climates would come and live here.

During the last 36 years there hasn't been another summer like it.

Despite the claims of the experts, Britain has experienced the coldest and wettest periods on record and extremes are becoming more frequent.

It is easy to see that the actual is opposite to the theory in a manner confounding the experts who endeavour to find reasons for it.

## Theory

Yet the theory is hugely popular with the authorities both locally and nationally.

At the same time it is very noticeable that the decision making processes and outcomes are often ludicrous to an almost unbelievable extent.

There are many examples that have an adverse effect upon us all.

Whatever avenue of life you look at, whether it be health, transport, education, justice, local or foreign affairs, it appears that absurd decisions are often made for the wrong reasons.

The Bible, frequently despised, provides the answer to all things. In contrast to human authorities it has always proved right and will continue to do so.

PETER KEEN, Oswestry



THIS is a sight which must have stirred the emotions for generations of Oswestry schoolchildren. It is The Quad at Oswestry School, and the picture is an old postcard from the collection of Bridgnorth postcard collector Ray Farlow. It is undated, but looks to be from the first few years of the 20th century.

## Put these on the top shelf

IN HIGH street newsagents and on supermarket shelves across the country, children have easy access to gun magazines that encourage and even celebrate the killing of animals for 'sport'.

These publications feature shooters posing boastfully alongside animals they have just slaughtered. Grinning young children are also shown holding up or standing over shot pheasants, rabbits, foxes and pigeons.

Animal Aid – along with 84 per cent of the general public (according to the results of a recent NOP poll) – want a ban on the sale of gun magazines to under-18s.

The same poll also revealed that 74 per cent of the public supports our call to have such material moved to a top shelf position.

This would bring them in line with tobacco products and publications with an explicit sexual content.

Readers can help us try to achieve this goal, by ordering Animal Aid's postcards, addressed to leading high street newsagents and to the Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove MP.

Please help us to keep gun magazines out of the hands of children. Contact Animal Aid for a free action pack.

Thank you,  
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Animal Aid

## LETTERS to the Editor

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters

## Card representatives harassed shoppers

HAS anyone else been harassed by Nectar credit card representatives whilst trying to do their weekly shop in the Oswestry store?

I complained to the manager and sent an e-mail to customer services.

Initially I was impressed with Sainsbury's reaction to my complaint and their reassurances made me feel certain that they would remove the reps from the store.

However, my next visit was even worse. What on earth is Sainsbury's playing at?

No one needs this kind of pressure selling at anytime, let alone while shopping.

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## Future of energy is to exploit gas and sea tides

ONE can only assume Climate Change Minister, Greg Barker is indeed barking mad when he proclaims wind turbines to be 'wonderful' and 'rather majestic' – me thinks as wonderful as Alice in Wonderland, majestic as the Queen of Hearts, and as daft as the Mad Hatter!

Thankfully the Chancellor George Osborne lives in the real world in matters relating to UK energy usage such as his 'Dash for Gas' being the only sensible short term fix for keeping the lights on in the UK.

We certainly do not need countryside industrialising and ineffective wind farms, nor highly polluting, very expensive and potentially dangerous nuclear plants.

To be sure, the writing has been on the wall for some considerable time regarding nuclear especially in our small island, bearing in mind the recent catastrophic event in Japan – do we never learn, and Germany sensibly turning its back on nuclear.

## Conservation

The path to the future should not be purely about the means and magnitude of generation, but should be weighted by energy conservation as well.

Lighting is an easy example to quote for reducing power usage – the employment of LED technology can offer 90 per cent energy saving – although power companies will not be too happy seeing the demand for their product diminishing, and just to keep the status quo regarding profit will have to increase the price per unit consumed, or encourage greater usage!

With the USA primed to be a large exporter of fracking gas coupled with the UK being rich in shale gas as according to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, market forces will surely push the price down for this fuel, and thus common sense dictates we should be building gas powered power stations whilst exploiting tidal and ocean current generation at the same time – after all we are an island with the Bristol Channel having the second highest tidal range on the planet.

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## WELSHPOOL

01691 668094

NEWS  
in brief

## Band will go back to 1940s at show

THE Siren Sisters will be performing a selection of 1940s hits at a show in Welshpool tomorrow (Friday).

The show will be held at the town hall in Broad Street at 2pm.

Tickets are £6, with concessions £4 and are available from Welshpool Jewellers, High Street, Flaunt It, Cumberland Place and the tourist information centre at Mile End, Oswestry. People can also pay on the door.

## Hall hosting four table-top events

FOUR table-top sales will be held at Welshpool Town Hall next year by council officials.

The events will be held on January 26, February 23, October 19 and November 16.

Each sale, which will be organised by Welshpool Town Council, will run from 9am until 2pm and tables are £5 each.

Further details are available from the town clerk's office on (01938) 553142.

## Quiz for charity

PROCEEDS from a weekly quiz in a pub in Welshpool will go to the Severn Rivers Trust. The quizzes at the Smithfield Bell pub on December 12 and 19 will support the charity. The pub holds a quiz on Wednesdays at 9pm.

# Man says sorry for making up knife attack allegation

A MAN who falsely accused members of the Polish community in Welshpool of threatening him with a knife has apologised for making up the allegation.

The man said he told a 'white lie' to get out of trouble because he was late for work. Police said it was one of two false allegations that had created tensions within the community.

The latest allegation was made on November 28 by a local man who claimed he had been threatened by a couple of Polish men armed with a knife near the canal in Welshpool.

Constable Jim Baines said the incident was treated as genuine and resulted in a great deal of media interest following appeals for information for witnesses.

by Andrew Morris

## New service to register births

NEW parents in Mid Wales are being encouraged to make use of a new registration service being run by council officials.

The Tell Us Once service being run by Powys County Council means parents only need to register the birth of babies with the authority. Council staff, with the permission of the parent, will tell certain central and local government departments of their change in circumstances.

The new service, which went live this week, will also give parents the opportunity to fast-track their child benefit forms to HM Revenue and Customs.

Last year, a similar service was introduced when people were registering deaths.

Councillor Gary Price, the council's cabinet member with responsibility for the registration service, said: "Many people in Powys have taken advantage of Tell Us Once when they were registering deaths and I am pleased that we can now offer this to people in happier circumstances."

It also created tensions within the local community, as this was the second false allegation made to police in Welshpool.

The man who made the allegations, whose identity is not being revealed, said he wished to pass on his heartfelt and sincere apologies to all concerned.

"I would like to apologise to the Polish community for wrongly accusing them for something that didn't happen," he said.

"I would also like to apologise to the police for wasting their time in relation to the lie that I told. I made up the story that morning because I was late for work. I didn't want to get in trouble with work so I told them a white lie that got out of hand."

Two months earlier a different man made an unrelated allegation claiming he had been robbed. Officers discovered he had in fact taken property belonging to a family member and made up the story.

"Following a very thorough investigation by CID officers, it came to light that no such robbery had taken place and that the alleged victim had in fact made the whole thing up," Constable Baines said.

"This took up a great deal of police resources which could have been used serving the public legitimately elsewhere. As a result, this man has been issued with an £80 fixed penalty notice for wasting police time."

"The investigation has also vindicated the Polish community which was unfairly tainted by these allegations."

## Gold rush as Alan wins again



Alan Davies from Alan Davies Butchers of Berriew, with a selection of his rosettes and awards for his sausages, bacon and burgers. Picture: Simon Williams.

THE rosettes tell the story – butcher Alan Davies is in a league of his own when it comes to making brilliant bangers.

Mr Davies, of Alan Davies Butchers in Berriew, near Welshpool, said he won six gold medals and three silvers at shows in recent weeks – as well as being named top sausage maker at the Royal Welsh Winter

Fair in Builth Wells. The first two golds and three silvers came at the English Winter Fair in Staffordshire, before he followed up with another four golds and a bonus first and second place at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair in Builth Wells.

Mr Davies said: "We put in a lot of hard work in perfecting our sausages."

## Walking group has route for new year

WELSHPOOL Ramblers will begin their 2013 programme with the customary New Year's Day walk when Gwyneth Prosser will lead an easy, medium distance, circular walk in the Abermule area.

Members will meet at Church Street car park, Welshpool at the sensibly 'late' time of 11am where shared transport may be available or 11.15am at Abermule Primary School. All welcome, but no dogs on the walk please. Further information can be obtained on 01686 630572.

The final walk of 2012 took place on December 16 with Sheila Turner leading 11 walkers on a 'Q' shaped route of seven miles, with Mochdre at its centre.

## Tribute band at town hall party

A ROCK 'n' roll Christmas party is being organised to take place in Welshpool Town Hall tomorrow (Friday) at 8pm.

The evening will feature the tribute band Phil Haley and The Comments.

Tickets are £8 each in advance and can be bought from Welshpool Jewellers or the Tourist Information Centre at Welshpool and Mile End in Oswestry.

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**WELSHPOOL**

01691 668094

**NEWS**  
in brief**Plea to recycle Christmas waste**

POWYS County Council is urging people in the Welshpool area to continue to recycle their household waste as much as possible during the festive period.

The council said there will be some changes to the recycling and rubbish collection dates during the festive period and residents would be informed.

Councillor Barry Thomas, cabinet member for waste and recycling, said: "Christmas can be a busy time, but that doesn't mean recycling has to take a back seat.

"It's still important that we send as little rubbish as possible to landfill."

Visit [www.powys.gov.uk/](http://www.powys.gov.uk/) to find out more.

**Festive fair raises £1,000 for church**

MORE than £1,000 was raised for a church in Bwlch-y-Cibau at a Christmas fair.

The event was held at the Old School and saw local people run fundraising and craft stalls. There was also a tombola and treasure hunt.

The event raised £1,035 for the funds of Christ Church in the village.

**Club given £750**

PONTROBERT Friendly Club has received £750 in the latest round from the lottery's Awards for All funding programme. The club will celebrate its 40th anniversary next October.

# Row over town traffic review

**A POWYS County Council chief has hit out at the 'tone' and language used by Welshpool officials in a letter on the future of the town's controversial one-way traffic system.**

Welshpool Town Council wrote to the county authority to criticise the 'disgusting' amount of time being taken to review the layout.

But Powys County Council has hit back, with Councillor Kelyvn Curry, lead member of the group looking at the system, saying the town council's letter had left him 'disappointed' and would do little to help strengthen the relationship between the two authorities.

He said: "The review of Welshpool's one-way system was initiated by the county council's former environment, crime and disorder scrutiny committee. It is only right and proper that the findings and any recommendations are presented to that committee before any external body.

"However, the report will be shared with the Welshpool's three county councillors, two of whom are members of Welshpool Town Council, and they are at liberty to discuss the findings with the town council. We are disappointed at the tone and language used by the town council in an open letter to local media. Their approach will do little to strengthen collaborative working."

**Change**

"There was an unavoidable delay caused by this year's local government elections and the change of administration that resulted. The council has had to appoint a new scrutiny committee with all members undergoing a programme of training before taking up their various roles.

"Work on the review is now complete and was due to be discussed by members of the council's scrutiny committee when they met last night, Wednesday."

The letter from town clerk Robert Robinson, had said: "The council wishes to express its disgust at the way the town and the residents of the town and Welshpool Town Council have been treated over this review."

Inspector Brian Jones said: "We want people to enjoy themselves but to do so safely and lawfully. During the festive celebrations it can be easy to forget to be sensible.

"Also, don't drink and drive. Consider the consequences of drink driving on your health, your family, your job and others. If you're caught, you could be banned or go to prison."

by Graham Breeze

## Police patrols are stepped up

POLICE will carry out more patrols on the streets of towns in Mid Wales in a bid to crack down on crime over the festive period.

Dyfed-Powys Police said it sees an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour over Christmas and new year every year, with incidents involving alcohol a particular problem.

The force said some drinkers 'don't know when to stop' which can lead to sexual assaults, drink driving and violent crime.

And extra patrols will be carried out to clamp down on crime and anti-social behaviour over the next few weeks.

Inspector Brian Jones said: "We want people to enjoy themselves but to do so safely and lawfully. During the festive celebrations it can be easy to forget to be sensible.

"Also, don't drink and drive. Consider the consequences of drink driving on your health, your family, your job and others. If you're caught, you could be banned or go to prison."

## Local artist in the frame



**LOCAL** artist David Bannister is exhibiting his work at Welshpool Library. David studied at Camberwell School of Art in London and since then has worked as a freelance scenic artist for photographers in London and as a graphic designer. Taking a look at his work is senior library assistant Helen Evans. *Picture: Peter Flemmich.*

## Welsh in education set to be improved

WELSH language education in schools in Mid Wales will be improved under plans by Powys County Council.

Its cabinet has approved a revised Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which looks at all aspects of education, from the early years through to post-16.

The council says the revised plan prioritises two fundamental issues: increasing the number of Welsh-medium pupils in the early years and primary sectors and improving the Welsh-medium curriculum for secondary and post-16 pupils.

Councillor Myfanwy Alexander, cabinet member for learning and leisure, said: "We wanted to make sure that all learners in Powys have access to the highest-quality provision through the medium of Welsh and we need to work with schools and our partner organisations."

"Schools are already collaborating as learning partnerships and we think that the best way of delivering a sustainable, high-quality Welsh-medium curriculum is for schools to work together. Our aim is to have at least one lead provider for Welsh-medium post-16 curriculum within each partnership."

The cabinet approved changes in the way Welsh medium post-16 education will be managed in future.

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"I have been involved in the antique business for over 35 years, originally dealing directly with the trade, selling through antique centres or standing at antique fairs," he added.

### Display

"I had considered opening a shop of my own many times, it seemed a natural progression and to be perfectly honest it was a case of if I don't do it now I never will."

And so, with assistance from his family and his partner Cathy, R Anthony Antiques has been open for three months.

"We will soon be opening the first floor area for the display of antique furniture, clocks and musical instruments," said Roy.

"Jewellery has proved to be popular and with this in mind we will be endeavouring to greatly increase our stock of jewellery, both antique and previously owned."

"Finding and acquiring new stock, particularly pieces of interest and quality is perhaps the most difficult and yet at the same time the most enjoyable part of our trade."

"This first 12 weeks have yielded some fantastic finds, including a wonderful 18th century long case clock by Salter of Oswestry, a fantastic Rene Lalique glass bowl circa 1930 and a beautiful Wedgwood vase by the great Harry Bernard."

"Our most recent acquisition is a pair of exquisite William IV rosewood pole screens."



Roy Anthony of R Anthony Antiques in Oswestry.



The Established showroom is decorated for Christmas.

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the XIV reproduction suite to a modern classic such as a G-Plan sideboard, Mary Quant dress or enamel bakeware.

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Browsers are welcomed to the premises, which is found behind Cheeko's Kebab shop.

Established is well worth a visit but you will need time to browse because there is so much to see.

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# VIP launch for £590,000 village community centre



The former Bishop of Shrewsbury John Dudley Davies blessing the sculpture of Bishop William Morgan, which was made by sculptor Barry Davies from Llanrhaeadr.



Children from Llanrhaeadr Primary School wait for the hall to be opened.



The Right Honorable Carwyn Jones, First Minister for Wales, unveils the plaque for the new Llanrhaeadr Village Hall, watched by Sarah Suckley-Jones, chairman of the Llanrhaeadr Village Hall committee.

**A £590,000 PUBLIC hall at Llanrhaeadr has been opened by Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones.**

Dozens of villagers cheered Mr Jones as he opened the hall, which was made possible through local fundraising and grants since 2009. It features meeting rooms, disabled facilities, a bar and reception area, computers and a snooker club room.

There are also plans for a business centre to be introduced in the near future.

Mr Jones said: "It is a magnificent facility and something that the people have worked extremely hard to secure."

"I would like to thank everyone here for the tremendous welcome."

Mr Jones was applauded by local children and dignitaries as well as members of the management committee.

Sarah Suckley-Jones, committee chairman, said the hall provided the perfect venue in the Tanat Valley for meetings



Crowds of invited guests gather to watch The Right Honorable Carwyn Jones, First Minister for Wales, officially open the new Llanrhaeadr Village Hall.

**by Andrew Morris**

of organisations, classes, parties, theatre and other performances and fundraising events.

She said: "The hall committee decided that a special opening was needed to show their appreciation for all the financial and voluntary help that has been given to enable the project to be completed on time and on budget."

"We were delighted that the First Minister agreed to formally open the new hall."

"The hall committee has worked hard, together with funders and supporters, to complete this project."

She added: "It's a first class amenity which we can all be proud of and one which will benefit our local community for

years to come, just as the old hall, erected in 1927, did."

Russell George, Montgomeryshire AM, said he was honoured to have been invited to the opening.

"It is a truly wonderful hall that will serve many purposes for the people of Mid Wales," he said.

"Personally I am very impressed with the pool room and will have a couple of games. It is a marvellous facility."

Also unveiled was a statue of Bishop William Morgan, who was vicar of Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant in the late 16th century when he became the first man to translate the Bible into Welsh.

The statue was blessed by the former Bishop of Shrewsbury, John Dudley Davies, who said: "It is a real honour to bless this statue. It is a worthy statue and a statement of the work of Bishop Morgan."



## Don't forget your bin collection day change over Christmas



The day of the week your waste and recycling is collected will change over the Christmas period. These changes start before Christmas Eve and end on Monday 7 January 2013. Some collections will be one or more days earlier than usual and some collections will be later than usual.

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
	Collection dates earlier than normal in red
Monday 24 December	Saturday 22 December
Tuesday 25 December	Monday 24 December
Wednesday 26 December	Thursday 27 December
Thursday 27 December	Friday 28 December
Friday 28 December	Saturday 29 December
Monday 31 December	No change
Tuesday 1 January	Wednesday 2 January
Wednesday 2 January	Thursday 3 January
Thursday 3 January	Friday 4 January
Friday 4 January	Saturday 5 January

Collections return to normal from Monday 7 January 2013. Please see your existing collection calendar or check the website: [www.shropshire.gov.uk/bin/day](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/bin/day)

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The Beeb is rightly proud of its money-raising efforts, but ITV isn't exactly shoddy in the telethon stakes either.

Okay, so the broadcaster hasn't had one that's run for as long as the BBC has, but in *Text Santa* (ITV1, 8pm), it's found a format that could surpass it.

Last year it made its debut, raising more than £4million for six charities via text messages sent by viewers watching at home.

This year, it's hoped that total will be at least equalled if not bettered, with Age UK, Anthony Nolan, Carers UK, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Together for Short Lives and Whizz-Kidz all set to benefit.

"We're delighted to be returning to host Text Santa again. Last year we raised an amazing amount of money and awareness for six truly worthy causes," say Ant and Dec.

"This year we want to make it even bigger and better and you can get involved too by simply ordering a fundraising pack and putting the fun into fundraising."

A star-studded batch of co-presenters are set to lend the lads a hand. Phillip Schofield, Holly Willoughby, Christine Bleakley and Paddy McGuinness have all been lined up to introduce star acts and sketches featuring various famous faces and TV shows in what promises to be a wonderful evening's entertainment.

Although he started out as a stand-up comedian before finding fame via Peter Kay's *Phoenix Nights*, McGuinness's star has risen during the past couple of years owing to his stint as the host

of prime-time Saturday night dating game show *Take Me Out*.

Seeing as he's now a bona fide ITV face, it should come as no surprise to see he's been asked to join the presenting team – and he's thrilled to bits about it.

"I'm rocking around the Christmas tree at joining *Text Santa*," he grins. "What a great bunch of people to be working with to host this year's appeal. Santa has been very kind to me this year and paired me up with Christine Bleakley! What a fantastic way to start the Christmas countdown!"

Peter Fincham, ITV Director of Television, says: "We're so thrilled to be working with such fantastic names again and that so many of ITV's most-loved shows are also doing something special for *Text Santa*. We want to give viewers a real treat in return for their incredible generosity and support of these inspirational charities."

**Highlight**

So, what can we expect on the night?

Not many details have been released yet, but we do know stars of *Coronation Street* past and present have joined forces for a festive treat, and Gary Barlow will perform a comedy duet with Dawn French.

Watch out too for a *Family Fortunes* special in which Jonathan Ross will take on Jo Brand, and the *Loose Women* endure an *X Factor* audition.

But perhaps the highlight will be a murder-mystery spoof entitled *Snow Whitechapel*, written by and starring Steve Pemberton; his pals Rupert Penry-Jones and Phil Davis also appear.

**Early View**

**Jennifer Saunders guests on The Graham Norton Show, shown at 10.35pm**

**1.00 BBC News; Weather. (C) 1.30 Regional News; Weather. (C) 1.45 Doctors** Nobody wants to be lonely this Christmas in Letherbridge so Karen attempts to reunite a stubborn old man with his family, and Heston gives Daniel a necessary kick, while Howard has an epiphany. Medical drama, starring Jan Pearson. (C) **2.15 Escape to the Country** Jules Hudson helps a couple who are looking for a period property in Norfolk on a budget of £350,000. (C) (R)

**3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News (C) 3.05 CBBC: Show Me What You're Made Of (C) (R) 3.30 The Cow That Almost Missed Christmas (C) 4.00 Blue Peter Christmas Special Magazine. (C) (R) 4.30 CBeebies Panto (C) 5.15 Pointless Celebrities 6.00 BBC News; Weather. (C) 6.30 Midlands Today (C) 7.00 The One Show** Chris Evans and Alex Jones round off the week with celebrity guests and stories of interest to the UK. (C)

**7.30 Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) BBC News

**8.00 EastEnders** Alfie's discovery brings his world crashing down around him, while across the Square, a drunken Lauren tells Max the truth about the crash – and how Tanya has been covering it up. (C)

**8.30 Outnumbered** Another guest arrives to stay, Sue has to make a decision about Jake's girlfriend, while Ben and Karen have an unusual discussion. Last in the series. (C) (R)

**9.00 Have I Got News for You Christmas Special** Actor Daniel Radcliffe is tonight's guest host, joined by panellist Andy Hamilton to help regulars Ian Hislop and Paul Merton poke fun at the past week's news.

**9.30 Live at the Apollo** With Julian Clary, Omid Djalili and Reginald D Hunter. (C)

**10.00 BBC News (C) 10.25 Regional News (C) 10.35 The Graham Norton Show** With Dustin Hoffman, Jennifer Saunders and Matt Smith.

**11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws (C) 11.30 John Bishop's Britain Christmas Special (R) 12.15 EastEnders (C) (R) 2.10 Weatherview (C) 2.15 Sign Zone: A Wolf Called Storm: Natural World Special (C) (R) 3.15 Sign Zone: MasterChef: The Professionals (R) 4.15 BBC News**

**11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws (C) 11.30 John Bishop's Britain Christmas Special (R) 12.15 EastEnders (C) (R) 2.10 Weatherview (C) 2.15 Sign Zone: A Wolf Called Storm: Natural World Special (C) (R) 3.15 Sign Zone: MasterChef: The Professionals (R) 4.15 BBC News**

**11.30 John Bishop's Britain Christmas Special (R) 12.15 EastEnders (C) (R) 2.10 Weatherview (C) 2.15 Sign Zone: A Wolf Called Storm: Natural World Special (C) (R) 3.15 Sign Zone: MasterChef: The Professionals (R) 4.15 BBC News**

**6.00 Breakfast** A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45. (C) **10.00 Christmas Saturday Kitchen** EastEnders actor Shane Richie faces his food heaven or hell, with dishes prepared by chefs Gallon Blackiston and Bill Granger. Presented by James Martin. (C) **11.30 Nigel Slater's Christmas Suppers (C) (R) 12.00 BBC News; Regional News and Weather 12.15 Football Focus (C)**



**John Humphrys hosts the specialist quiz show, Mastermind, at 8.00pm**

**1.00 Royal Upstairs Downstairs** The presenters travel to Penrhyn Castle in Bangor, where Queen Victoria and Prince Albert stayed for three days in 1859. (C) (R) **1.30 To Buy or Not to Buy** A vicar and his wife search for a retirement home in Skipton, North Yorkshire. (C) (R) **2.15 Weak Link** Members of the public answer general knowledge questions as a team against the clock, hoping to build a stack of cash and avoid being declared the poorest player and voted out. (R)

**3.00 Real Rescues (C) (R) 3.45 Wanted Down Under Revisited (C) (R) 4.30 Flog It!** From the Imperial War Museum Duxford in Cambridgeshire. (C) **5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is (C) (R) 6.00 Celebrity Eggheads** With Gary Kemp, Tim Rice, Roger Greenaway, Mike Batt and Gary Osborne. Last in the series. (C)

**6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two** Hour-long edition. Analysis of the couples' progress ahead of the final. Last in the series.

**7.30 Christmas University Challenge** Graduates of Newnham College, Cambridge, take on University of Nottingham alumni for a place in the semi-finals, with Diane Abbott and Brian Moore among the contestants. (C)

**8.00 Mastermind** Four more contestants take part, answering questions on the life and films of Kevin Smith, the Falklands Conflict and the life and work of Thomas Hardy. (C)

**8.30 An Island Parish** Shepherd David Scott has a difficult decision to make about his pet sheep Persil, and Rev Gill Nicholls faces up to leaving the island for good. Last in the series. (C)

**9.00 Westminster Abbey** The new intake of pupils talk about their lives at the choir school, and the Abbey prepares for Christmas with the arrival of the trees and a carol concert. Last in the series.

**10.00 QI** Stephen Fry hosts a Christmas edition of the quiz, asking Sarah Millican, Phill Jupitus, Danny Baker and Alan Davies questions on the theme of jingle bells.

**10.30 Newsnight (C) 11.00 Weather (C) 11.05 Grumpy Guide to Christmas** Real-life Scrooges give their jaundiced views of the festive season. (C) (R)

**12.05 FILM: Holiday in Handcuffs (2007)** Comedy. (C) \*\*\* 1.30 BBC News 4.15 Close

**6.00 CBeebies 7.05 CBBC: What's New Scooby-Doo? (C) (R) 7.30 Dennis and Gnasher (C) (R) 7.40 The 4 O'Clock Club (C) (R) 8.10 MI High (C) (R) 8.40 Deadly 60 (C) (R) 9.05 Copycats (C) (R) 9.35 12 Again Strictly Special (C) (R) 10.05 The Ministry of Curious Stuff (C) (R) 10.30 Diddy Movies (C) (R) 10.45 Sorry, I've Got No Head (C) (R) 11.15 Horrible Histories (C) (R) 11.45 MOTO Kickabout: Ooglies. (C) (R) 12.20 FILM: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) (C) \*\*\***



**Celebrity Juice: Text Santa Christmas Special, shown at 11.15pm**

**12.30 Let's Do Christmas** with Gino & Mel The duo are joined by actor Paul Nicholas as they prepare more festive recipes, including a Christmas turkey dinner and a no-bake Irish liqueur cheese cake. Last in the series. (T) **1.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather. (T) 2.00 Storage Hoarders** Aggie MacKenzie helps two hoarders, one with a penchant for auction house antiques and another with a vast collection of cultural memorabilia, including material from the film star Jessie Matthews. (T)

**3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal** David Dickinson celebrates ITV's Text Santa Day in Ilford, north London. (T) **3.59 Local Weather (T) 4.00 Britain's Best Bakery** The best three bakeries of the competition battle it out in the grand final. Last in the series. (T)

**5.00 The Chase Quiz**, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (T) **6.00 Central Tonight** The day's news; Weather. (T) **6.30 ITV News and Weather** The day's news. (T)

**6.55 Text Santa Starts Here** Ant and Dec launch this evening's extravaganza.

**7.00 Emmerdale** Cameron regrets his confession and takes drastic action to stop his secret spreading, while Chas hears the jury's verdict. Amy and Robbie realise they have been set up on a date. (T)

**7.30 Coronation Street** Tyrone and Fizz fear their secret is out when Tina spots them kissing, while Nick arrives at Simon's nativity play and furiously accuses Peter of making a hoax booking at the Bisto.

**8.00 Text Santa** The festive charity appeal returns for a second year, as the evening's presenters Ant and Dec, Holly Willoughby, Phillip Schofield, Paddy McGuinness and Christine Bleakley are joined by a host of celebrities to raise money for six deserving causes. The show includes a Christmas Corrie, featuring stars of Coronation Street past and present, a comedy duet between Gary Barlow and Dawn French, a Family Fortunes special with Jonathan Ross and Jo Brand, and the Loose Women panellists in an X Factor audition. (T)

**11.00 ITV News and Weather 11.15 Celebrity Juice: Text Santa Christmas Special** Charity special.

**12.00 Text Santa: One More Time** (T) 1.15 Jackpot247 3.00 FILM: Quadrophonia (1979) (R) \*\*\* 5.00 ITV Nightscreen

**6.10 The Hoobs (T) (R) 6.35 The Hoobs (T) (R) 7.00 The Endurman Arch to Arc Triathlon (T) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) 7.55 The Morning Line (T) 8.55 T4: Frasier Charlotte and Frasier get stranded. (T) (R) 9.25 T4: Frasier (T) (R) 9.55 FILM: T4: A Christmas Carol: The Musical (2004) Musical based on the Dickens story, starring Kelsey Grammer. (T) \*\*\* 11.50 T4: The Big Bang Theory (T) (R) 12.20 T4: The Simpsons (T) (R) 12.50 T4: The Simpsons (T) (R)**



**Kylie Minogue is among the guests, Alan Carr: Chatty Man, at 10.00pm**

**12.25 FILM: CutThroat Island (1995)** A tough female pirate enlists the help of an educated slave in finding the three parts of a map leading to buried treasure. However, one of the pieces is in the hands of her cruel uncle, and she also has to find the loot before her crew mutinies or the British Navy catches up with her. Swashbuckling adventure, starring Geena Davis, Matthew Modine, Frank Langella and Maury Chaykin. (T) \*\* 2.40 Countdown (T)

**3.30 1001 Things You Should Know (T) 4.00 Deal or No Deal (T) 5.00 Come Dine with Me** Celebrity Christmas Special Margi Clarke hosts the final dinner party. Last in the series. (T)

**5.30 The Simpsons (T) (R) 6.00 The Simpsons** Homer uncovers a plan to move the Springfield Isotopes baseball team to New Mexico and goes on hunger strike in protest. (T)

**6.30 Hoolyaks (T) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) 7.30 Unreported World** Evan Williams travels to Burma to meet the villagers fighting for their ancestral lands as foreign investors flood in to a nation rich in undeveloped resources. Last in the series. (T)

**7.55 4thought.tv (T) 8.00 King of Christmas Lights** Cutting Edge delves into the world of extreme festive decorations, meeting people whose homes boast some of the most eye-catching and impressive Christmas-light displays in the UK. (T) (R)

**9.00 The Hoarder Next Door Christmas Special** Psychotherapist Stelios Kiosses and his de-clutterers help clear the home of a woman whose vast collection of Christmas decorations is bringing down a bedroom ceiling.

**10.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man** With The Hobbit star Ian McKellen, chef Gordon Ramsay and comedy actress Miranda Hart. Kylie Minogue performs Better the Devil You Know. Last in the series. (T)

**11.05 Father Ted Christmas Special** Dougal and Ted get lost in a lingerie department. (T) (R)

**12.15 Father Ted (T) (R) 12.50 Father Ted (T) (R) 1.15 Full English 1.45 The Ricky Gervais Show (T) 2.10 The Ricky Gervais Show (T) 2.40 My Name Is Earl (T) (R) 3.00 Glory Daze (T) 3.45 A Ninja Is for Life, Not Just for Christmas (T) (R) 3.50 90210 (T) 4.30 Deal or No Deal**

**6.10 The Hoobs (T) (R) 6.35 The Hoobs (T) (R) 7.00 The Endurman Arch to Arc Triathlon (T) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) 7.55 The Morning Line (T) 8.55 T4: Frasier Charlotte and Frasier get stranded. (T) (R) 9.25 T4: Frasier (T) (R) 9.55 FILM: T4: A Christmas Carol: The Musical (2004) Musical based on the Dickens story, starring Kelsey Grammer. (T) \*\*\* 11.50 T4: The Big Bang Theory (T) (R) 12.20 T4: The Simpsons (T) (R) 12.50 T4: The Simpsons (T) (R)**



**Simon Baker stars as Patrick Jane in The Mentalist, on at 9.00pm**

**12.25 Build a New Life in the Country** George Clarke heads to Newton Stewart in Dumfries and Galloway to meet a couple hoping to transform an old schoolhouse into an antiques centre, tea room and family home. (T) (R) **1.25 FILM: Meet the Santas (2005)** Santa's son Nick and single mother Beth tie the knot on Christmas Eve – but married life takes an unexpected turn once the couple start to run the family business after Santa's retirement. Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. (T) \*\*

**3.10 Mistletoe Over Manhattan (2011)** Premiere. Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer, Tedde Moore and Greg Bryk. (T) \*\*

**5.00 5 News at 5 (T) 5.30 Emergency Bikers** Birmingham paramedic Mark Hayes leads the rescue of a seriously injured driver. (T) (R)

**6.30 5 News at 6.30 (T) 7.00 Cowboy Builders** Dominic Littlewood and Melinda Messenger revisit a couple in Harrow, north London, who they helped out in 2010 to see how they have got on. Last in the series. (T) (R) 5 News (T)

**8.00 North Pole Ice Airport** A dog-handler reveals the special bond he has with his huskies, a 17-year-old from Eton collects snow samples and the team packs up Camp Barneo for another year. Last in the series. (T) 5 News at 9 (T)

**9.00 The Mentalist** With the help of cult leader Bret Stiles (recurring guest star Malcolm McDowell), Jane orchestrates an elaborate plan to break Lorelei Martins out of prison – making it look as if she kidnapped him before going on the run. While Lisbon and Homeland Security agent Robert Kirkland attempt to rescue Jane, he tries to earn Lorelei's trust so that he can finally catch serial killer Red John. (T)

**10.00 Castle** A celebrity chef is killed by being dipped in a vat of liquid nitrogen in the kitchen of a New York restaurant, which is owned by an old high-school friend and rival of Beckett. Nathan Fillion stars. (T)

**11.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent** Bobby is haunted by the past. (T) (R)

**11.55 Inside Hollywood (R) 12.00 SuperCasino 3.50 Motorsport Mundial 4.20 HouseBusters (T) (R) 4.45 Great Artists (T) (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge (T) (R) 5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge (T) (R)**

**6.00 Milkshake!: 9.50 Chinese Food in Minutes (T) (R) 9.55 Dallas (T) (R) 10.50 Once Upon a Time** Fantasy drama, starring Jennifer Morrison. (T) (R) **11.55 Once Upon a Time** Regina steps up her efforts to get Emma out of town. (T) (R) **12.50 FILM: Crazy for Christmas (2005)** A single mother finds a job on Christmas Eve as a chauffeur for a rich old man, who is planning to give all his money away. Festive family drama, starring Andrea Roth, Howard Hesseman, Jason Spevak and Yannick Bisson. (T) \*\*\*

**Prime Time****Late View****Tomorrow**

Michelle Keegan and Lorraine Kelly in the *Coronation Street* episode (*A Christmas Corrie*) of *Text Santa*

**It all began as a dare for RDH**

THE number of successful Georgia-born comedians to make it big in the UK can be counted on the fingers of one hand. However, thanks to his laid-back delivery and brilliant material, Reginald D Hunter has become one of the best-loved funnymen of his generation.

He was apparently dared to perform his first stand-up routine, got a taste for it, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Between 2002 and 2004 he was nominated for the Perrier award at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Little wonder he was soon snapped up for the usual TV appearances, including several turns on *Have I Got News For You*, *QI* and *8 Out of 10 Cats*.

Now there's a chance to see RDH take the mic in *Live at the Apollo* (BBC One, 9.30pm). LATA host Omid Djalili has also become a familiar face to many, though partly thanks to a series of bit-parts in some of the biggest films of recent years, including *Notting Hill*, *The Mummy*, and *Gladiator*. "All I've ever wanted to do is bring world peace through stand-up comedy," says the London-born star.

Aside from dispensing a few rib-ticklers here, he also welcomes Celebrity Big Brother winner Julian Clary, so expect plenty of near-the-knuckle gags from him.



## DECEMBER 22 TV

## CHRISTMAS CRACKER

## Early View

## BBC 1



**Morgana (Katie McGrath) prepares to wage war on Camelot in Merlin, 7.55pm**

**12.15 Football Focus** Dan Walker previews the weekend's action.  
**1.00 Live Equestrian: Olympia 2012** The Olympia International Horse Show. Clare Balding presents coverage of the sixth day of the event at the Olympia Grand Hall in London, featuring the World Cup show jumping event. Plus, action from the week's puissance and dressage events and a look back at the equestrian programme from the London Olympics. Commentary by Michael Tucker and Andy Austin. (C)

## BBC 2



**Matthew Rhys stars in The Mystery of Edwin Drood, 10.00pm**

**12.20 FILM: Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003)** Teenage agent Carmen gets trapped in an evil genius' virtual world, leaving younger brother Juni racing to save her. Adventure sequel, starring Daryl Sabara and Sylvester Stallone. (C) ★★ **1.35 FILM: Beverly Hills Chihuahua (2008)** A pampered pet dog is stranded in Mexico and needs the help of a brave German shepherd to get back home. Comedy, with Pier Perabo, and the voice of Drew Barrymore. (C) ★

## ITV 1



**Celebrity quiz on the past year's TV in Paddy's 2012 Show and Telly, 8.00pm**

**12.35 Holiday Home Sweet Home** A Warwickshire property built around the ruins of an ancient castle. (T) **1.35 Holiday Home Sweet Home** Lisa Faulkner visits an eco-friendly holiday park in Cornwall, where she admires a 1950s Airstream caravan and cooks for holidaymakers at the on-site cafe. (T) **2.35 Steppin' Out with Katherine Jenkins** A cabaret show featuring the classical singer and star guests, including the Overtones and Only Boys Aloud. (T) (R)

## Ch 4



**Technology that can keep people fit in Stephen Fry: Gadget Man, 8.30pm**

**12.50 T4: The Simpsons** Bart discovers a hidden musical talent with the help of a sympathetic child psychologist, and quickly becomes an acclaimed jazz drummer – causing Lisa to feel envious of his success. With the voices of the White Stripes. (T) (R) **1.20 Channel 4 Racing** Alastair Down presents live coverage of six races. From Ascot, races start at 1.30, 2.00, 2.35 and 3.10. From Haydock Park at 1.45 and 2.15. With commentary and analysis by John Francombe. (T)

## Ch 5



**Patrick Stewart stars in Dickens' classic ghost story A Christmas Carol, 8.00pm**

**12.50 FILM: Crazy for Christmas (2005)** A single mother finds a job on Christmas Eve as a chauffeur for a rich old man, who is planning to give all his money away. Festive family drama, starring Andrea Roth, Howard Hesseman and Jason Spevack. (T) ★★ **2.40 FILM: Dear Santa (2011)** Premiere. A selfish woman finds a girl's letter to Santa asking for a new wife for her father, and tracks the family down. Romantic comedy, with Amy Acker and David Haydn-Jones. (T) ★★

## It's judgment day for the Strictly gang

IT APPEARS *Strictly Come Dancing* (BBC1, 6.30pm) has won the Saturday night light entertainment battle, frequently thrashing arch-rival *The X Factor* in the ratings – not bad for a pro-celeb ballroom contest hosted by a man in his 80s.

But before the producers can start patting themselves on the backs, there's still the little matter of who is going to lift the mirrorball trophy.

When the celebrities were unveiled to the public, all the way back in September, viewers were keen to pick out potential frontrunners.

Given her musical theatre background, many people thought Denise Van Outen was in with a shout, although she was keen to play down her credentials, saying: "I can move, I can do the basics – I've got the basic dancing skills thanks to the theatre school. But this is all really new to me, and I haven't danced properly for about 15 years."

"That's what I worry about the most: people thinking I'm a dancer when I'm not."

For the boys, gymnast Louis Smith was expected to be a stand-out, and it seemed he was bringing his Olympic spirit to the ballroom.

"I am a very competitive person and I definitely want to do well. Win is a big word, and if you say that then you put yourself under a lot of pressure. But I definitely want to go all the way."

However, in week one it wasn't Van Outen, Smith or Girls Aloud's Kimberley Walsh who topped the judges' leaderboard, but *Emmerdale*'s Lisa Riley following a spirited cha cha cha.

Ahead of the competition, she'd seemingly lured the other contestants into a false sense of security, saying: "The others should not

be worried – at all! The first couple of weeks I was definitely expecting to be totally two-left-footed, but I think we all will."

There have been other shocks along the way – after his almost comically bad jive, who would have guessed that cricketer Michael Vaughan would have proved to be such a nifty little mover in the ballroom, bringing the house down with his American smooth at Wembley before he was eventually bowled out by a samba?

And when Craig Revel Horwood described Van Outen's Egyptian-themed Charleston as the best he'd ever seen on *Strictly*, who would have guessed that he was only going to give her a nine?

## Battle

So, she should probably gear ourselves up for more surprises this evening as the four remaining contestants battle it out.

For a start, the celebs have to perform a no-holds-barred show-dance – and as anyone who can remember series three, where Erin Boag and Colin Jackson inexplicably chose to trip the light fantastic with a couple of full-sized dummies, pretty much anything can happen.

Smith's dance partner Flavia has found ways to work his gymnastic skills into the tango and the Charleston, so if he's still in contention, we should brace ourselves for something truly spectacular. But will anyone make an entrance as arresting as Victoria Pendleton, arriving to perform a paso doble on a flying bike?

All we do know is that Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly are on presenting duties, and Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Dorey Bussell are doing the judging.



**Sheridan Smith discusses her role in Panto! on the Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special (ITV)**

## Just no stopping busy Sheridan...

IT SEEMS Sheridan Smith can do no wrong at the moment. The Lincolnshire-born actress and singer honed her craft on *Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps*, *Gavin and Stacey*, and *Benidorm*, but it took her two Olivier awards (for *Legally Blonde*, and *Flare Path*) to make ITV bosses realise she would be perfect for the title role in *Mrs Biggs*.

The 31-year-old has also been busy prepping a couple of other TV projects, *Mr Stink* and *Panto!*, which she'll be discussing on a star-studded *Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special* (ITV1, 9pm).

Jonathan also welcomes ubiquitous comedian Michael McIntyre; actress Sienna Miller, who plugs her new BBC drama *The Girl*, and chef Jamie Oliver, who rustles up a few festive treats.

And if that's not enough to make your evening, Charlotte Church provides the music; Paralympic stars Ellie Simmonds and Jonnie Peacock chat about their incredible year; and there's a performance by Slava's Snowshow.

## Prime Time

**4.30 Final Score** Round-up of football results. (C)  
**5.20 BBC News: Regional** News; Weather. (C)  
**5.40 Pointless Celebrities** Featuring Sarah Greene, Mike Smith, Erkan Mustafa and Jamie Theakston. (C)

**6.30 Strictly Come Dancing** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present the eagerly anticipated final of the contest, in which Dani, Louis, Denise and Kimberley perform ballroom, Latin and freestyle routines. The results are at 8.50pm. (C)

**7.55 Merlin** Morgana prepares to wage war on Camelot with Mordred at her side, while Merlin finds the burden of his destiny weighing heavily. (C)

**8.40 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws** The all-important numbers, with Mylene Klass. (C)

**8.50 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results** The finalists return to the ballroom and after an elimination three couples battle it out for the 2012 trophy. There is also a performance by Robbie Williams. Last in the series.

**10.05 BBC News; Weather. (C)**

**10.25 Match of the Day** Gabby Logan presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Reading at the Etihad Stadium and Wigan Athletic v Arsenal at the DW Stadium. (C)

**11.55 The Football League Show** Manish Bhasin presents action from today's fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Leicester City v Cardiff City at the King Power Stadium and Crystal Palace v Huddersfield Town at Selhurst Park. (C)

**1.10 Weatherview (C)** **1.15 Sign Zone: Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane** Part one of two. (C) **2.15 Sign Zone: Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane (C)** **3.10 Sign Zone: Nigellissima – An Italian Inspired Christmas (C)** **4.10 BBC News**

**3.00 Nigellissima – An Italian Inspired Christmas** Nigella Lawson prepares dishes with an Italian twist. (C) (R)

**4.00 The Game Plan (2007)** Family comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson. (C) ★★

**5.45 The Toys That Made Christmas** Robert Webb takes a light-hearted look back at Christmas past through the toys people played with and loved over the years. (C) (R)

**7.15 Porridge** Mackay and Barracough discover Fletch is making booze in his cell and the crafty con seems certain to spend Christmas in solitary. Festive special from 1976, with Ronnie Barker. (C) (R)

**8.00 Top of the Pops 2: Christmas 2012** Mark Radcliffe introduces a selection of archive festive songs, including tracks by Slade, Wizzard, Wham!, Ramones, Mahalia Jackson, Paul McCartney and Jona Lewie. (C)

**9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks** Bob Mortimer hosts a festive edition of the comedy quiz, with Melanie C, Russell Tovey, DJ Fresh and Joey Page joining captains Phil Jupitus and Noel Fielding. (C)

**10.00 The Mystery of Edwin Drood** Two-part thriller based on Charles Dickens' unfinished novel about a choirmaster's obsession with a 17-year-old girl and the measures he takes to attain her. Matthew Rhys stars. The conclusion follows. (C) (R)

**11.00 The Mystery of Edwin Drood** A guilty Jasper seeks solace in his passion for Rosa Bud – but a trail of evidence to the crypt may yet seal his fate. Matthew Rhys stars. (C) (R)

**12.00 The Story of Fairytale of New York (C)** **1.00 Qi (C)** **1.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (C)** **2.00 FILM: Arch of Triumph (1948)** Romantic drama, with Ingrid Bergman, Charles Boyer and Charles Laughton. (b/w) (C) ★★ **4.05 Close**

**3.50 Central News and Weather; Weather. (T)**

**4.20 Back to the Future Part II (1990)** Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Michael J Fox, Christopher Lloyd and Matt Clark. (T) ★★

**6.30 The Nation's Favourite Christmas Song** A countdown of the top 20 tunes guaranteed to get people in the festive spirit, including classics by Wizzard, Mariah Carey, Slade, and the Pogues featuring Kirsty MacColl. (T)

**8.00 Paddy's 2012 Show and Telly** Paddy McGuinness quizzes celebrity pairs Denise Van Outen and Nicky Byrne, Kate Garraway and Nicholas Owen, and Antony Cotton and Chris Fountain on the past year's TV highlights. (T)

**9.00 The Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special** The host presents a celebrity-packed festive edition of his chat show. Funnyman Michael McIntyre pulls a few Christmas crackers, Sienna Miller talks about her new BBC drama *The Girl*, Sheridan Smith has two TV shows to plug – *Mr Stink* and *Panto!* – and Jamie Oliver cooks up a few yuletide treats. Welsh songbird Charlotte Church provides the music, and Paralympics stars Ellie Simmonds and Jonnie Peacock are also in the studio. Plus, a performance by Slava's Snowshow. (T)

**10.30 ITV News and Weather; The day's headlines. (T)**

**10.45 Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)** A cyborg is sent back in time to protect the future saviour of the human race from a shape-changing assassin. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Linda Hamilton and Earl Boen. (T) ★★

**1.15 Jackpot247 3.00 In Plain Sight (T)** **3.45 ITV Nightscreen**

**3.30 River Cottage: Three Go Mad at Christmas** Stephen Mangan, Mark Heap and Kathy Burke help Hugh prepare a feast. (R)

**4.35 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T)** (R)

**5.05 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T)** (R)

**5.35 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T)** (R)

**6.05 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T)** (R)

**6.35 Come Dine with Me: Celebrity Christmas Special (T)** (R)

**7.05 Channel 4 News (T)**

**7.25 4thought.tv (T)**

**7.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces at Christmas** The architect returns for a festive special revisiting some of the series' projects, and explores Christmas-themed buildings including a gingerbread house. (T) (R)

**8.30 Stephen Fry: Gadget Man** Stephen looks at technology that can help people keep fit and healthy and attempts to build a gadget that will enable him to race against Olympic champion Kelly Holmes. (R)

**9.00 Four Christmases (2008)** Premiere. A couple struggle to make it through four family Christmases on the same day as they see each of their divorced parents. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon and Sissy Spacek. (T) ★★

**10.40 Die Hard 2 (1990)** A cop battles terrorists who have taken over an airport to force the release of a convicted drug baron. Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis. (T) ★★

**1.00 FILM: Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010)** Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Jorma and Onni Tommila. (English Subtitles) ★★ **2.20 This Is Me (T)** **2.25 Holyoaks (T)** **4.30 90210 (T)** **5.15 90210** Annie organises an event. (T)

**5.55 The Treacle People Christmas Special (T)** **6.15 The Hoobs (T)** **7.05 Prep & Landing (T)** **7.25 Prep & Landing: Naughty v Nice (T)** **7.50 The Bear (T)** **8.20 The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog** **8.25 Frasier** Part one of two. Frasier says goodbye to Charlotte. (T) **8.55 Frasier** Part two of two. Last-ever episode of the sitcom. (T) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** Festive edition presented by Tim Lovejoy and Simon Rimmer. (T) **12.05 The Big Bang Theory (T)** **12.30 The Big Bang Theory (T)** (R)

## Late View

**6.00 Breakfast (C)** **7.30 Match of the Day** Including Manchester City v Reading. (C) **9.00 David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul (C)** **10.00 Fern Britton Meets Dionne Warwick (C)** **11.00 Only Fools and Horses** The Trotters become caped crusaders. (C) **12.00 BBC News; Weather. (C)** **12.10 'Allo 'Allo!** Christmas special of the comedy from 1985. Starring Gordon Kaye. (C) **12.55 Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (R)

**6.00 CBeebies** **7.05 CBBC: Shaun the Sheep. (C)** **7.10 Little Howard's Big Christmas Question (C)** **7.35 4 O'Clock Club (C)** **8.05 MI High (C)** **8.35 Bear Behaving Badly (C)** **9.00 Copycats (C)** **9.30 12 Again Christmas Special (C)** **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Best Bites (C) **11.30 The Great British Bake Off Christmas Masterclass (C)** **12.30 FILM: The Preacher's Wife (1996)** Romantic fantasy remake, starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. (C) ★★

**6.00 CITV** **9.25 Dinner Date (T)** **10.20 FILM: Cumber: Faded in to Murder (1976)** An actor playing a detective thinks he can get away with killing his blackmailing ex-lover – but reckons without the crumpled cop. Crime drama, with Peter Falk. (T) ★★ **12.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather. (T)** **12.30 FILM: Carry On Cowboy (1966)** A timid English sanitation expert is mistakenly made sheriff of a lawless Wild West town plagued by a notorious outlaw. Comedy Western, starring Jim Dale and Sid James. (T) ★★

**5.55 The Treacle People Christmas Special (T)** **6.15 The Hoobs (T)** **7.05 Prep & Landing (T)** **7.25 Prep & Landing: Naughty v Nice (T)** **7.50 The Bear (T)** **8.20 The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog** **8.25 Frasier** Part one of two. Frasier says goodbye to Charlotte. (T) **8.55 Frasier** Part two of two. Last-ever episode of the sitcom. (T) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** Festive edition presented by Tim Lovejoy and Simon Rimmer. (T) **12.05 The Big Bang Theory (T)** **12.30 The Big Bang Theory (T)** (R)

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Chinese Food in Minutes (T)** **10.20 Dallas (T)** **11.15 Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is ambushed and robbed by Snow White, the most wanted woman in the whole of fairy-tale land, so he sets out to track her down and retrieve his jewellery. (T) **12.10 Once Upon a Time** Cinderella makes a deal with Rumpelstiltskin to be transformed into a princess fit for the ball – and only later does she realise she has signed away her firstborn. Drama, starring Robert Carlyle. (T) (R)

**12.15 SuperCasino** **3.55 Michaela's Wild Challenge (T)** **4.20 Great Artists (T)** **4.50 Rough Guide to Eco Escapes (T)** **5.05 Hana's Helpline (T)** **5.15 The Milkshake! Show (T)** **5.40 Thomas & Friends (T)** **5.50 Roary the Racing Car (T)** (R)

## Tomorrow







## DECEMBER 23 TV

## CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Early View

## BBC 1



Can Villa striker Benteke bring down the Blues?

11.00 Only Fools and Horses (C) 12.10 **Allo Allo** BBC News; Weather. 12.55 **Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) (R) 1.30 **The Borrowers** Fantasy adventure, starring Stephen Fry and Christopher Eccleston. (C) (R) 2.55 1.55 **FILM: Cool Runnings** (1993) Fact-based comedy about four Jamaicans who became the first bobsleigh team to compete for their country at the 1988 Winter Olympics. Starring John Candy, Leon and Doug E Doug. (C) \*\*\* 4.30 **Songs of Praise** David Grant presents carols by candlelight. (C)

## BBC 2



The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012

11.30 **The Great British Bake Off** Christmas Masterclass Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood demonstrate how to make a number of festive favourites, including mince pies and Christmas pudding, as well as new recipes for tasty treats. (C) (R) 12.30 **FILM: The Preacher's Wife** (1996) Romantic fantasy remake, starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. (C) \*\*\* 2.40 **Escape to the Country** People search for their ideal rural retreats. (C) (R) 3.25 **Flog It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (C) (R) 4.25 **FILM: First Knight** (1995) A wandering swordsman is made a knight at King Arthur's court, where he falls in love with the monarch's queen. Adventure, starring Richard Gere, Sean Connery and Julia Ormond. (C) \*\*

## ITV 1



Vintage Carry On comedy in the Wild West. 1.45pm

12.30 **FILM: Carry On Cowboy** (1966) A timid English sanitation expert is mistakenly made sheriff of a lawless Wild West town plagued by notorious outlaw the Rumpo Kid. Comedy Western, starring Jim Dale and Sid James. (T) \*\*\* 2.15 **All Star Family Fortunes** Singer Suzanne Shaw takes on Coronation Street's William Roache. (T) (R) 3.00 **The McFly Show**. 4.05 **FILM: Twins** (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their long-lost mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. (T) \*\*\* 6.05 **You've Been Framed!** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage. (T) (R)

## Ch 4



Damian Lewis stars in Homeland on at 9pm

12.05 **The Big Bang Theory** Amy and Sheldon start a gossip experiment. (T) (R) 1.00 **The Simpsons** Marge starts a carpentry business, but quickly learns she will need more than mere skill if her venture is to succeed. Fearing sexism, she appoints Homer as a figurehead. (T) (R) 1.30 **The Simpsons**. 2.00 **Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) 3.00 100 **Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross** A countdown of the nation's favourite games and playthings. (T) (R)

## Ch 5



Billy Bob Thornton is Bad Santa, on at 9pm

11.15 **Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is ambushed by feisty thief Snow White. (T) (R) 1.10 **FILM: Christmas Consult** (2012) \*\*\* 2.55 **FILM: It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie** (2002) Festive comedy, with Joan Cusack and Whoopi Goldberg. \*\* 4.40 **FILM: Christmas with the Kranks** Comedy (2004) \*\*

Prime Time

5.30 BBC News; Regional News and Weather (C)

6.30 **Mr Stink** Based on David Walliams's tale about a lonely youngster who seeks refuge from the headaches of family life by befriending a tramp. Stars Sheridan Smith and Johnny Vegas. (C)

7.30 **Antiques Roadshow** Fiona Bruce presents a look back at the most important and talked-about finds from the most recent series, including highlights from the programmes themselves, as well as updates on the items, whether they went to auction, were kept or were lent to exhibitions. (C)

8.30 **Loving Miss Hatto** Drama about classical pianist Joyce Hatto, written by Victoria Wood. The story begins in early-1950s London, when she met her future husband William Barrington-Coupe, and tells their love story right up until 50 years later. Francesca Annis and Alfred Molina are among the cast. (C)

10.00 BBC News; Regional News and Weather (C)

10.25 **Match of the Day 2** Mark Chapman is joined by Alan Shearer and Dion Dublin to present highlights of today's Premier League fixtures, which were Swansea City v Manchester United at the Liberty Stadium and Chelsea v Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge. United earned a 1-0 win in last season's corresponding fixture against the Swans, while the Blues suffered a shock 3-1 home defeat at the hands of the Villans last term, an outcome that the visitors will have been desperate to emulate to aid them in their fight against relegation. Plus, all the goals from yesterday's fixtures. (C)

11.25 **The Graham Norton Show** With movie legend Dustin Hoffman, comedy double-act Billy Connolly and Jennifer Saunders and the current Doctor Who star Matt Smith. (C) (R)

6.30 **The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show** Festive fun from 1973 with the ever-popular comedy duo and guests Vanessa Redgrave, Hannah Gordon, Rudolf Nureyev, Laurence Olivier and Andre Previn, all proving they are game for a laugh. Comic highlights include what is probably the couple's most famous sketch, which takes place in Eric and Ernie's bedroom. (C) (R)

7.35 **Victoria Wood with All the Trimmings** The comedienne sends up Christmas TV in a festive special from 2000. Guest stars including Julie Walters, Alan Rickman, Pete Postlethwaite, Celia Imrie, James Bolam, Delia Smith, Richard E. Grant, Derek Jacobi, Alan Titchmarsh, Michael Parkinson and Imelda Staunton pop up in pastiches of everything from a big-band show from the 1950s to a Dickens period drama. (C) (R)

8.30 **Dragon's Den** Christmas Special. (C)

9.30 **James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club** The Top Gear presenter investigates the enduring appeal of the model aeroplane and sets out with the intention of achieving the first flight across the Channel by an engineless, homemade supersized toy — breaking the British distance record in the process. During his quest, James turns Indiana Jones to unearth surprising new evidence identifying children as the true pioneers of flight and wrestles with an underperforming craft that threatens to barely leave the ground. (C)

10.30 **The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012** The award-winning comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show, in which she delivers short stand-up routines inspired by festive TV. Sarah is joined by Downtown Abbey star Hugh Bonneville and Shane Richie of EastEnders for a spot of Yuletide conversation. (C)

11.00 **Victoria Wood: As Seen on TV** The comedienne reflects on her television career with a combination of sketches, stand-ups and songs. (C) (R)

6.45 **Central News and Weather**; Weather. (T)

7.00 **Ade's Christmas Crackers** Comic Ade Edmondson delves deep into the television archives to share some broadcasting gems and moments of TV gold which have been broadcast over the past 60 years (T)

8.00 **The Cube** TV presenter Melanie Sykes tackles up to seven seemingly simple challenges inside the giant transparent box, aiming to win £250,000 for good causes. Diversity star Ashley Banjo also takes a shot at scooping the charity jackpot — but will his gift 5 frame come in handy as the cube presents him with a series of fiendishly difficult tasks? The contestants both receive nine lives at the start, but with each one they lose, the pressure mounts. Phillip Schofield hosts. (T)

9.00 **Joanna Lumley: The Search for Noah's Ark** For centuries, the possible existence of Noah's Ark has fascinated humanity. In this special documentary, Joanna Lumley embarks on a journey of discovery, taking in artefacts of the British Museum, the folklore of nomadic tribes in Turkey, flood mythology, a lost civilisation in India, leading ultimately to the mountain of Jebel Sharmah in Oman. (T)

10.30 **ITV News and Weather**; Weather. (T)

10.45 **Take Me Out** Celebrity Christmas Special

10.45 **Premiership Rugby Union** Action from the latest round of fixtures. (T)

6.25 **The Snowman**. Classic animation based on Raymond Briggs's festive tale about a small boy whose snowman magically comes to life.

6.55 **Night at the Museum** (2006) A new nightwatchman at New York's Museum of Natural History discovers his job entails more than he bargained for. Once night falls, an ancient Egyptian spell brings the museum exhibits to life, entangling him in a riotous struggle to restore peace and order before the sun rises and visitors arrive. Fantasy comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Dick Van Dyke, Robin Williams, Carla Gugino and Ricky Gervais. (T) \*\*

9.00 **Homeland** US marine Nicholas Brody is rescued from captivity in Afghanistan, eight years after going missing in action. He returns home to a hero's welcome — but CIA agent Carrie Mathison believes there is more to his case than meets the eye, and suspects he is secretly working on behalf of a notorious terrorist. Thriller, starring Claire Danes, Damian Lewis, Morena Baccarin, Mandy Patinkin and David Harewood. (T)

10.30 **Peep Show** Comedy chronicling the rather chaotic friendship and private innermost thoughts of two misfits with an unhealthy reliance on one another. Robert Webb and David Mitchell star. (T)

11.00 **In Bruges** (2008) Comedy film. After bungling a bank job in Dublin hitman Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson are sent to hide out in the medieval city of Bruges in Belgium. Trying to pass as tourists, the hapless pair get into all manner of scrapes — and eventually the penny drops that their gangster boss has sinister plans for them (T) \*\*\*\*

12.10 **FILM: Grumpy Old Men** (1993) Comedy, starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau. (C) \*\*\* 1.50 **Weather**; Weather. (C) \*\*\* 1.55 **Sign Zone: Film 2012** Reviews of Jack Reacher, Pitch Perfect, Life of Pi and Midnight's Children. (C) (R) 2.25 **Sign Zone: Hobby City** Michael Jeapardises his relationship with Ramona. (C) (R) 3.25 **Sign Zone: Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part one of two. Nigel creates a selection of festive dishes. (C) (R) 3.50 **Sign Zone: Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) (R) 4.20 **BBC News**. 4.30 **HARDtalk**. 5.00 **BBC News**. 5.30 **World Business Report**. 5.45 **BBC News**. (C)

12.30 **QI** Stephen Fry presents the comedy quiz with outspoken actor and explorer Brian Blessed, and comedians Sean Lock and Ross Noble joining regular Alan Davies to answer questions on the theme of ice. (C) (R) 1.00 **FILM: Film TBA** \* 3.15 **FILM: The Four Feathers** (2002) Historical adventure, starring Heath Ledger. (C) \*\*\* 5.20 **Close**

12.45 **Jackpot** 247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 2.45 **River Monsters** Jeremy Wade heads to Thailand in search of the giant freshwater stingray, one of the world's largest and most terrifying river fish. Armed with a venomous 10in barb on the end of its whip-like tail, this 700lb predator tests the extreme angler to his physical limits, eventually snapping his rod and ripping his bicep. (T) (R) 3.45 **ITV Nightscreen**

1.00 **American Football Live** A match from the NFL. (T) 4.45 **Supernanny US** The Froebribs ask Jo Frost to help them control their children, whose behaviour has grown worse due to the stress of their grandmother coming to live with them. (T) 5.25 90210 **Amie** volunteers to organise a major charity event, hoping it will enable her to put her inheritance to good use. Naomi makes a risky bid to secure a client for her new business. (T) 5.35 **FILM: Andre** (1994) Family drama, starring Keith Carradine. (T) \*

1.15 **SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 **House Doctor** A cluttered flat in Hammersmith. (T) (R) 4.25 **House Doctor** A country cottage in Northamptonshire. (T) (R) 4.50 **Rough Guide** To Antwerp, Dublin and Tel Aviv. (T) (R) 5.05 **Hana's Helpline** Katy the kitten hopes to become a musician. (T) (R) 5.15 **The Milkshake! Show** Shake tries to build a snowman. (T) (R) 5.40 **Thomas & Friends** Duncan transports a bell. (T) (R) 5.50 **Roady the Racing Car** Molecom wants to be more musical. (T) (R)

## Victoria tells love story with a difference

NOT SO long ago, if we'd heard Victoria Wood was doing something for the BBC at Christmas, we'd have expected a sketch show, complete with songs, Acorn Antiques and Julie Walters.

But in recent years, the comedian has been branching out. She wrote and starred in the acclaimed drama *Housewife*, 49, and played Eric Morecambe's mum in *Eric & Ernie*, having come up with the original idea for the film.

And now, she's penned *Loving Miss Hatto* (BBC1, 8.30pm) — and hasn't even included a lead role for herself.

Her restraint is all the more impressive given that the eponymous person is pianist Joyce Hatto — and Wood enjoys knocking out a tune on the old Joanna herself.

So, perhaps what attracted writer, musician, and all-round national treasure Wood to this project was the story itself — and it's a good one. *Loving Miss Hatto* explores the fascinating, real-life case of a seemingly ordinary couple who pulled off the greatest fraud the classical music world has ever known from their bungalow.

As Wood explains: "*Loving Miss Hatto* is a screenplay inspired by the true story of classical pianist Joyce Hatto and her husband Barrie. It begins with their meeting in the grey, shabby atmosphere of early 1950s London and ends in the 21st century in a cul-de-sac in Royston, Hertfordshire.

"This is a story of two young people with high hopes who, like most of us, get bashed in the face by life. It is, above all — a love story."

The tale begins when Barrie was a young chancer

working for a music publisher while harbouring ambitions to become a classical music impresario.

It appears he's found a star to mould when he meets pianist Joyce, who also becomes his wife. Her career gets off to a promising start, until fate intervenes and the couple realise the world of concert tours and recording studios may not be for them after all, and effectively retire from music.

But then, in 2002 fame beckons again as Barrie sets off to revive his wife's career, despite the fact that she's in her 70s and suffering from terminal cancer.

A series of remarkable recordings win rave reviews from the critics, and the stage is apparently set for a wonderful feel-good story about a woman who finally gets the recognition she deserves before it's too late.

**Emerges**

Then six months after Joyce's death, the tale takes another, even more surprising twist when it emerges that many of her recordings are in fact the work of other musicians.

Having said that, with Alfred Molina and Francesca Annis playing Barrie and Joyce, with Rory Kinnear, and Maimie McCoy as their younger counterparts, *Loving Miss Hatto* looks very much like the genuine article.

As Executive Producer Andy Harries says: "This is an extraordinary tale that caught our eye many years ago."

"Victoria Wood has spent three years researching this fascinating story and has produced a beautifully realised and moving script that not only brings the story to life, but also sheds new light on Joyce's relationship with her husband."

Francesca Annis as Joyce and Alfred Molina as Barrie in *Loving Miss Hatto* (BBC1)

Francesca Annis as Joyce and Alfred Molina as Barrie in *Loving Miss Hatto* (BBC1)

## Ade's tried and trusted formula

WE ALL know that Christmas is supposed to be a time when we're kind to each other and hang out with our loved ones, or friends and family we don't see as much as we'd like.

But really, it's a period when we plonk ourselves down in front of the telly, and watch the big festive specials kindly arranged for us by the nation's biggest broadcasting companies, all of which attempt to outdo each other by producing the most lavish programmes they can come up with.

It's pretty much been the same for the past 60 years, as Adrian Edmondson proves in this show, which delves deep into the TV archives to dish up some amazing festive clips in *Ade's Christmas Crackers* (ITV1, 7pm).

Celeb chefs appear, as do various sitcoms and variety shows. And then there are the heart-warming, real-life moments from Noel's Christmas Presents to savour again, as well as the soaps.

Yes, there's something for everyone during this trip down memory lane.

Late View



# CHRISTMAS CRACKER

# CHRISTMAS EVE TV

## It's reunion time for the Spice Girls

CAST your minds back to 1996, when five larger-than-life girls debuted their catchy sound with a single which would hit number one in more than 30 countries – and that's no easy feat.

*Wannabe* catapulted the Spice Girls to success on a phenomenal scale, and now years down the line, Geri, Mel C, Victoria, Emma and Mel B are enjoying a reunion year that has given them the opportunity to close the London 2012 Olympics, and launch *Viva Forever: The Musical*, written by Jennifer Saunders, and produced by Judy Craymer.

Like them or not, there's no denying the Spice Girls are one of the biggest, best-selling all-female groups of all time – and the leading lights at ITV think that's something to celebrate.

*Spice Girls' Story: Viva Forever* (ITV1, 8.30pm) takes a look at the music of the group and how the girls dealt with such extraordinary fame, as girl power is introduced to a new generation through the musical.

For many girls of a certain age, the programme will bring back well-buried memories of that union jack dress they begged their mum to buy them. For Geri, the dress – which she wore to the Brits – will always be significant.

She explains: "I remember the stylist at the time told me not to wear it. I literally got 'don't wear that'. And I was going, 'but I like it. I like it... For me that dress symbolises what the Spice Girls is about.'"

While the girls enjoyed four years in the limelight – and of course, it was great

while it lasted – the success of the band paved the way for their respective careers. But Victoria remembers every exhausting minute of the hard work they put in.

She recalls: "It was such a whirlwind, it was really quite overwhelming. And we were so tired. We were working really, really hard. I mean the record company would have us at the airport sometimes at five o'clock in the morning. We'd fly somewhere, we'd be working all day, we'd get in super, super late, we'd have a couple of hours sleep and then we'd go off again the next day."

But the singer-turned-fashion-designer does know how lucky she is.

### Attitude

"I'm really proud to be Posh. I'm so proud to be in the Spice Girls and to have achieved everything I have. I'm the luckiest girl in the world, I really am. No-one knows that more than me."

Featuring interviews with the girls and those who know them best, this programme tells the story of five girls whose music, look and attitude had such a profound effect on the 1990s, and whose influence in British culture is still felt today; more than 15 years since they took the pop world by storm.

Oh and of course, the documentary wouldn't be complete without a couple of Spice muses putting in their twopenn'orth, while Richard E Grant, Dawn French and Perez Hilton also comment on what the Spice Girls' reign meant to them.



Geri Halliwell and director Paul Garrington at the *Viva Forever!* sitzprobe

## Thirty years on, meet Snowdog

IT'S 30 years since the nation was bewitched by festive animation *The Snowman*, adapted from Raymond Briggs's beloved children's book.

Many who watched it first time round will have offspring of their own now, who may be just as enamoured of its sequel, *The Snowman and the Snowdog* (Channel 4, 8pm).

It has been backed by Briggs, although he hasn't had a hand in its creation – instead, it was written and directed by Hilary Audus and Joanna Harrison, who worked as animators on the original.

The plot focuses on a young boy who's recently moved house with his mother. Hidden under the floorboards in his new room he finds a snowman-making kit so, the next day, he makes one – and with the leftover snow, creates a canine companion too.

That night, the duo come to life and take the lad on an amazing journey to the North Pole, where snowdog wins a prize from Father Christmas. But there's another, more amazing surprise awaiting the boy once he returns home...

### Early View



**Brendan O'Carroll stars in the comedy Mrs Brown's Boys, 10.15pm**

**12.25 FILM: The Santa Clause (1994)** A divorced father accidentally kills Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and is forced to deliver the presents himself. Fantasy comedy, starring Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold, Wendy Crewson, and David Krumholtz. (C) ★★★  
**2.00 FILM: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008)** Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Ben Barnes, William Moseley, George Henley, Skandar Keynes and Anna Popplewell. (C) ★★★



**Ronnie Barker stars in a festive edition of Porridge, on at 9.00pm**

**12.55 Wartime Farm Christmas (C) (R) 1.55 Springwatch Guide to Otters** Martin Hughes-Games and Chris Packham present an in-depth view of the otter, including the latest scientific discoveries about the animal as well as its turbulent history in the UK. (C) (R) **2.55 Equestrian** The Olympia International Horse Show. Clare Balding presents action from the seventh and final day of the prestigious event at the Olympia Grand Hall in London. (C)



**Aled Jones presents Christmas Carols on ITV, on at 10.15pm**

**12.30 The Chase Quiz show**, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (T) (R) **1.30 Doc Martin** Aunt Joan reveals she has a rare bird nesting on her land but wants to keep it a secret to deter prospective egg thieves. Sure enough, her tactless nephew opens his mouth to the local baker, who spies an opportunity to save his ailing business by making it a new attraction. Extended edition of the comedy drama, originally shown as a Christmas special in 2006. Martin Clunes stars. (T) (R)



**Sarah Millican, 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special, on at 9.00pm**

**12.40 The Simpsons** Lisa becomes a Buddhist. (T) (R) **1.15 The Simpsons** Bart is caught shoplifting. (T) (R) **1.45 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) **2.50 FILM: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992)** A boy ends up stranded in the Big Apple – where he bumps into two familiar burglars with an axe to grind. Comedy sequel, starring Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. (T) ★★★



**Pierce Brosnan stars in The Thomas Crown Affair, on at 10.00pm**

**12.35 FILM: Mistletoe Over Manhattan (2011)** Father Christmas' wife gets a job as a child minder for a cop in the midst of a divorce, and tries to reconcile him with his spouse. Fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk. (T) ★★  
**2.25 FILM: Trading Christmas (2011)** Premiere. A lonely widow and a frustrated writer arrange to swap houses for Christmas, and both find themselves having unexpected romances. Comedy, with Faith Ford. (T) ★★★

### Prime Time

**4.15 Merry Madagascar (C)** **4.35 The Gruffalo's Child** Animation. (C) (R)

**5.05 Lady and the Tramp (1955)** Premiere. Disney animated adventure, featuring the voice of Barbara Luddy. (C) ★★★★★

**6.20 BBC News: Weather.** (C) **6.35 Midlands Today** Local news. Weather. (C)

**6.45 A Christmas Carol (2009)** Premiere. A Victorian miser is visited by a series of ghosts on Christmas Eve who try to make him change his ways. Animated fantasy, with Jim Carrey. (C) ★★

**8.15 Merlin** As a fierce battle plays out on Camlann's mighty plain, Merlin comes face to face with his destiny. Final episode of the magical adventure, starring Colin Morgan. (C)

**9.00 EastEnders** Max and Tanya call off the wedding after Lauren's alcohol-fuelled outburst. (C)

**9.35 Outnumbered** The Brockmans throw a Christmas party for their neighbours, but Karen is too busy chatting online, Jake has fallen in with a bad crowd and the less said about the guests the better. (C)

**10.15 Mrs Brown's Boys** New series. In the first of two festive editions, Agnes faces her busiest Christmas ever, taking on the task of staging a nativity play at the community centre. The second episode can be seen on Boxing Day. (C)

**10.45 The Vicar of Dibley** The villagers celebrate Christmas, and vicar Geraldine learns there is a heavy price to be paid for festive kindness when she agrees to attend three slap-up lunches. (C) (R) **11.30 BBC News: Weather.** (C) **11.45 Midnight Mass from Leeds Cathedral** (C)

**1.05 FILM: Serendipity (2001)** Romantic drama, starring Kate Beckinsale and John Cusack. (C) ★★★ **2.30 Weatherview** (C) **2.35 BBC News** (C)

### Late View

**6.00 Breakfast (C) 9.00 The Gruffalo (C) (R) 9.25 Peter Rabbit's Christmas Tale (C) (R) 9.50 First Flight (C) 10.00 Christmas Day Eucharist (C) 11.00 Only Fools and Horses (C) (R) 12.05 BBC News (C) 12.13 Weather (C) 12.15 Shrek the Third (C) (R) 12.40 FILM: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008)** The escaped zoo animals come across their wild counterparts after their plane crashes in Africa. Animated adventure, with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock and David Schwimmer. (C) ★★

**3.55 Nativity! (2009)** Comedy, starring Martin Freeman and Ashley Jensen. (C) ★★

**5.35 Dad's Army** Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (C) (R)

**6.15 Carols from King's** Music and readings from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, including Once in Royal David's City, In the Bleak Midwinter, Silent Night and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. (C)

**7.30 Morecambe & Wise: Song and Dance** Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the music routines from the comedy duo's shows, showcasing the best ones and revealing the stories behind them. (C)

**8.30 Open All Hours** Arkwright forces a reluctant Granville to masquerade as a burglar in Nurse Gladys's bedroom, so the miserly shopkeeper can come to her rescue. (C) (R)

**9.00 Porridge** Fletch desperately tries to distance himself from an escape plan, convinced it is doomed from the outset. Festive edition of the comedy from 1975, starring Ronnie Barker. (C) (R)

**9.40 Ronnie Barker: The Many Faces Of A Profile** of the comedy actor and writer, who found national fame in The Two Ronnies and Porridge. With contributions by Ben Elton, Michael Grade and David Renwick. (C)

**10.40 The Two Ronnies: The Studio Recordings** (C) **11.10 Being Ronnie Corbett** Documentary charting the comedian's long and successful career. (C) (R) **12.10 Qi (C) (R) 12.40 An Island Parish (C) (R) 1.10 FILM: The Turtles of Tahiti (1942)** Comedy, starring Charles Laughton. (b/w) (C) ★★★ **2.40 Close**

**6.00 CBeebies:** Baby Jake. (C) (R) **6.15 Let's Celebrate Christmas** (C) (R) **6.30 The Cow That Almost Missed Christmas** (C) (R) **7.00 CBBC:** The Slammer Christmas. (C) (R) **7.30 12 Again Christmas Special** (C) (R) **8.00 Horrible Histories: Horrible Christmas (C) (R) 8.30 The Story of Tracy Beaker (C) (R) 8.45 Attenborough's Egg Hunt (C) (R) 9.45 Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special (C) (R) 10.45 Carols from King's (C) (R) 12.00 FILM: On the Town (1949) (C) ★★★★★**

**3.30 Rod Stewart's Christmas** The rock star performs festive songs at Stirling Castle. (T) (R)

**4.45 The Grinch (2000)** A grouchy creature plots to ruin Christmas and seasonal goodwill for the Whoville town residents. Fantasy comedy, based on Dr Seuss' book, starring Jim Carrey, Taylor Momsen and Jeffrey Tambor. (T) ★★

**6.40 ITV News and Weather** The headlines. (T)

**7.00 Emmerdale** Cameron takes drastic steps to deal with his hostage. (T)

**7.30 Coronation Street** Hour-long episode. Leanne has mixed emotions at her hen party, David causes further problems in his marriage by humiliating Kylie, and Tyrone plans to celebrate Christmas with Fizz. (T)

**8.30 The Spice Girls' Story: Viva Forever!** Documentary telling the story of the pop group's rise to fame through interviews with all five members, and looking at the making of the West End musical based on their hit songs. (T)

**10.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather** (T)

**10.15 Christmas Carols on ITV** Aled Jones is joined by Coronation Street stars at St James Church in Manchester to tell the Nativity story, with music by Russell Watson, Jonathan and Charlotte and the Soldiers. (T)

**11.15 The Jonathan Ross Show Christmas Special** With Michael McIntyre, Sienna Miller, Sheridan Smith and Charlotte Church. (T) (R)

**12.45 The Unforgettable Danny La Rue** Tribute to the female impersonator. (T) (R) **1.40 Pushing Daisies** The murder of a popular male escort throws up no end of suspects, and Emerson's investigator mother Calista pays a surprise visit. David Arquette guest stars. (T) (R) **2.25 ITV Nightscreen**

**6.00 CITV:** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (T) (R) **6.10 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (R) 6.25 The Hive (T) (R) 6.35 The Hive (T) (R) 6.45 The Hive (T) (R) 6.50 Animals (R) 7.00 Fleabag Monkeyface (T) 7.30 Almost Naked Animals (T) (R) 7.55 FILM: Scooby-Doo and the Alien Invaders (2000) ★★ **9.25 FILM: Aladdin (1992) (T) ★★ 11.10 The Nation's Favourite Christmas Song (T) (R) 12.40 Text Santa: One More Time (T) (R)****

**5.05 The Simpsons** With the guest voice of Kiefer Sutherland. (T) (R)

**5.40 Hollyoaks (T)**

**6.10 Channel 4 News (T)**

**6.25 4thought.tv (T)**

**6.30 Heston's Fantastical Christmas** A festive feast, including edible decorations and a huge Christmas pudding. Last in the series. (T) (R)

**7.30 Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** Festive spin-off of the animated films, with the voice of John Leguizamo. (T) (R)

**8.00 The Snowman and the Snowdog** Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (T)

**8.30 Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Christmas** Special The actor and broadcaster explores links between Christmas and technology. (T)

**9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Christmas Special** Sarah Millican, Stephen Mangan and Joe Wilkinson are among the guests joining captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock on a festive edition of the panel show. Hosted by Jimmy Carr. (T)

**10.00 Peep Show** Dobby is offered a job in New York by Simon, but is unsure whether to accept the offer and suggests she and Mark go for a weekend break in the country. Last in the series. (T)

**10.30 Friday Night Dinner** The boys' other Grandma ruins Christmas when she joins the family at the table for Mum's turkey dinner, accompanied by her equally horrible dog. (T)

**11.05 The Inbetweeners** Simon is eager to participate in Carli's fashion show. (T) (R)

**11.40 The Inbetweeners** Joe Thomas stars. (T) (R)

**12.15 The Inbetweeners (T) (R) 12.45 The Inbetweeners (T) (R) 1.15 The Inbetweeners (T) (R) 1.45 The Inbetweeners (T) (R) 2.15 Rude Tube Special 2010 (T) (R) 4.05 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (T) 5.00 90210 (T)**

**5.55 The Treacle People (T) (R) 6.05 Little Wolf** Animated tale, with the voice of Michael Gambon. (T) (R) **6.30 Lost and Found (T) (R) 6.55 Father Christmas (T) (R) 7.25 The Art of The Snowman and the Snowdog (T) (R) 7.30 The Simpsons** A department store Santa grants Lisa's Christmas wish. (T) (R) **7.50 The Simpsons (T) (R) 8.20 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008)** Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Jim Carrey. (T) ★★ **10.00 Gordon's Christmas Cookalong Live (T)**

**4.10 Scrooge – A Christmas Carol (1951)** A hard-hearted skintiff is taught the error of his ways by a succession of spectral visitors. Adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, with Alastair Sim, Mervyn Johns and Kathleen Harrison. (T) ★★★★★

**6.00 Rolf's Animal Christmas** Rolf Harris revisits some of the most memorable stories from Rolf's Animal Clinic. (T)

**7.00 World's Biggest Pets** Documentary about the devoted owners of large animals, including a man in Texas who has a pet bison and a Newcastle woman with a Burmese python. (T) 5 News Update (T)

**8.00 A Right Royal Year** A look at how the royal family has fared in the past year, which ended with the announcement that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expecting their first child. With contributions by Ann Widdecombe, Patrick Jephson, Adrian Evans, Robert Jobson Dominic Sandbrook. (T) 5 News (T)

**9.00 Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** Festive edition of the series, in which the company's trucks deliver a huge Christmas tree to a Cambridge hospital and a consignment of reindeer for a parade. (T)

**10.00 The Thomas Crown Affair (1999)** A billionaire with a taste for burglary meets his match in a cunning investigator, and begins a whirlwind romance. Crime adventure remake, starring Pierce Brosnan and Rene Russo. (T) ★★

**12.15 NCIS (T) (R) 1.15 SuperCasino 3.55 House Doctor (T) (R) 4.20 HouseBusters (T) (R) 4.45 Great Artists (T) (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge (T) (R) 5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge Wildlife series for children. (T) (R)**

**6.00 Milkshake! (R) 8.55 Inside Hollywood** Magazine show, with location reports, showbusiness news and views from behind the scenes in Tinseltown. **9.00 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939)** A plantation heiress has a tumultuous relationship with a roguish Southern gentleman during the American Civil War. Epic romantic drama based on Margaret Mitchell's novel, starring Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard, Olivia de Havilland, Hattie McDaniel and Thomas Mitchell. (T) ★★★★★



## CHRISTMAS DAY TV

## CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Early View

## BBC 1



**Derek plots to ruin Max's Christmas festivities in EastEnders, on at 8.45pm**

**12.40 FILM: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008)** The escaped zoo animals discover a plane and, following a swift repair job by the penguins, manage to escape the desolate shores of Madagascar. However, they crash-land on the plains of Africa and find themselves face-to-face with their wild counterparts for the first time. Animated adventure, with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock and David Schwimmer. (C) ★★ **2.00 Top of the Pops Christmas (C)**

## BBC 2



**Daniel Radcliffe features in a festive special from 2010, QI XL, on at 9.45pm**

**12.00 FILM: On the Town (1949)** Musical following the romantic misadventures of three sailors looking for love while enjoying a day's shore leave in New York. Starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. (C) ★★ ★★ **1.35 FILM: Singin' in the Rain (1952)** Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, Jean Hagen and Millard Mitchell. Songs include 'Make 'em Laugh, You Are My Lucky Star' and the title number. (C) ★★ ★★

## ITV 1



**Leanne visits Peter on her wedding day in Coronation Street, 7.30pm**

**12.40 Text Santa: One More Time (T) (R) 1.15 ITV News and Weather (T) 1.25 FILM: Toy Story (1995)** A jealous string-pulled cowboy doll's status as his owner's favourite plaything is threatened by the arrival of a charismatic hi-tech astronaut figure, who refuses to believe he is simply a toy. However, the rivals are forced to work together when they are left stranded in the outside world. Pixar animated adventure, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. (T) ★★ ★★

## Ch 4



**Alex Zane presents more internet clips in Rude Tube, on at 10.00pm**

**10.00 Gordon's Christmas Cookalong Live (T) 1.55 The Snowman and the Snowdog** Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman, in which a boy's snowman and snowdog magically come to life and take him on an adventure to the North Pole. (T) (R) **2.25 FILM: Scrooged (1988)** A heartless TV executive who sees Christmas as a chance to make lots of money is persuaded to mend his ways by three spirits. Festive comedy, with Bill Murray. (T) ★★ ★

## Ch 5



**Kylie Minogue in Greatest Christmas TV Moments, on at 10.00pm**

**9.00 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939)** A plantation heiress has a tumultuous relationship with a rough Southern gentleman during the American Civil War. Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. (T) ★★ ★★ **1.15 FILM: Ben-Hur (1959)** A Jewish prince is betrayed by his Roman friend and sold into slavery, but returns years later to seek revenge. Oscar-winning epic, starring Charlton Heston and Stephen Boyd. (T) ★★ ★★

## O'Grady is back in the dog house

IT'S CHRISTMAS Day and Paul O'Grady is in the dog house – Battersea Dogs and Cats Home to be precise. After becoming the smash hit of the autumn schedules, *Paul O'Grady – For the Love of Dogs* (ITV1 6pm) is back for a one-off Christmas special.

It's the festive season at the Dogs and Cats' Home and preparations are under way to make sure all the animals have a very special time. So who better to help out than dog lover and Battersea Ambassador Paul O'Grady.

As well as answering phones on reception and giving away some curiously shaped gifts, Paul spends time with the animals who will be at Battersea over the Christmas period.

## Cuddly

Among others, he'll be meeting Colleen, a stressed out husky who has undergone a phantom pregnancy and treats her puppies, Willow, an ex racing greyhound whose prospects of a new home are in jeopardy as he is unable to go upstairs, NuNu, the St Bernard who only understands Chinese and Cracker, the terrier whose shot at fame is hampered by his dodgy hip.

As well as following these doggie "tails", Paul cooks up a special Christmas lunch for the pooches and gets the festive season off to a good start with carols around the Christmas tree. But with a litter of lurcher puppies being born at the Home, will Paul need his pockets checking before he leaves the premises?

## Sister Wendy's world

WHO would have thought that chirpy ex-cricketer Phil Tufnell and Sister Wendy Beckett would make such a good double act on *The One Show*? However, their short art films are a jewel in the crown of that BBC One staple.

Some might wonder how Sister Wendy can continue a TV and writing career while following such a disciplined life?

Now the South African-born, Edinburgh-raised art expert is back with a documentary – *Sister Wendy and the Art of the Gospel* (BBC Two, 5.25pm), examining what makes her tick.

Randall Wright, director of her TV work, discusses a wide variety of subjects with a caravanserai she calls home. Sister Wendy has, however, laid down some ground rules, so don't expect this to be a warts-and-all exposé.

Prime Time

## 3.00 The Queen (C)

**3.10 Shrek Forever After (2010)** Premiere. A magical trickster leaves the grumpy ogre stuck in an alternate world where no one knows who he is. Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. (C) ★★ ★

## 4.35 Room on the Broom (C)

## 5.00 BBC News (C)

## 5.10 Weather (C)

## 5.15 Doctor Who The Time

Lord is summoned to Victorian England to thwart an icy menace – but he is still in mourning and does not want to know. Matt Smith stars. (C)

**6.15 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special Six** Strictly newcomers compete, and nine former contestants return. (C)

**7.30 Call the Midwife** A baby is found on the convent steps, prompting a race to find his mother. Jenny gets caught up in the mystery surrounding a local vagrant woman and Chummy stages a nativity play. (C)

**8.45 EastEnders** The Brannings look forward to a traditional family Christmas, but the mood changes with the arrival of Derek, who is plotting to ruin his brother's festivities.

**9.45 The Royle Family Christmas Special** The couch-potato clan gathers for another Christmas Day, which sees Barbara handing out her pound-shop presents and Dave coming up with an idea worthy of Dragons' Den.

## 10.45 BBC News (C)

## 10.55 Weather (C)

**11.00 The Vicar of Dibley** Alice suggests an unconventional nativity play starring herself. (C) (R)

**11.40 On Christmas Night** Paralympic medal-winner Rachel Morris reads the story of Christmas.

**11.45 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Christmas Special (C)**

**12.30 FILM: Cold Mountain (2003)** Period drama. (C) ★★ ★ **2.55 Weatherview 3.00 BBC News (C)**

## 3.15 Cenerentola (C)

## 5.15 The Queen (C) (R)

**5.25 Arena: Sister Wendy and the Art of the Gospel** The nun talks about life, faith and art. (C)

**6.25 50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special** Richard Hammond celebrates the vehicles featured in the Bond films, chats to Daniel Craig and Roger Moore and attempts to turn a Lotus Esprit into a fully working submarine car. (C) (R)

**7.30 Dad's Army** Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for an orange at a fundraising bazaar, but the private reveals a stubborn streak that costs the captain dear. (C) (R)

**8.00 Blackadder's Christmas Carol** Kindly Victorian pushover Ebenezer Blackadder is visited by the Spirit of Christmas and gains an insight into the deeds of his ancestors. Starring Rowan Atkinson. (C) (R)

**8.45 The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives** Gareth Malone goes back to Devon and talks to members of the vocal group he started in February 2011, hearing of their success since. (C)

**9.45 QI XL** Stephen Fry presents a festive special from 2010, as Daniel Radcliffe, Graham Norton, Lee Mack and regular Alan Davies answer questions on the theme of hocus pocus. (C) (R)

**10.30 The Sarah Millican Television Programme Christmas Special** The comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show, combining stand-up routines inspired by festive TV and chatting to guests Hugh Bonneville and Shane Richie. (C) (R)

**11.00 The Christmas No 1 Story** The battle for the festive single. (C) (R)

**12.00 Top of the Pops 2: Christmas 2012 (C) (R) 1.30 FILM: The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939)** Medieval drama. (b/w) (C) ★★ ★

## 3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's

annual address. (T)

**3.10 Tangled (2010)** Premiere. Disney animated comedy, with the voice of Mandy Moore. (T) ★★ ★

**5.00 New You've Been Framed! Christmas** Harry Hill narrates festive camcorder calamities. (T)

## 5.30 Emmerdale (T)

**6.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas** The comedian helps out at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home over the festive period. (T)

**7.00 Emmerdale** Cameron wastes no time in heading to the woods, where he digs a hole for the body. Alicia confronts David, and Edna discovers her home has been burgled. (T)

**7.30 Coronation Street** Hour-long episode. Leanne's emotions surface on her big day and she visits Peter in her wedding dress, while Kylie's marital problems send her into the arms of another man. (T)

**8.30 ITV News and Weather** Downton Abbey Robert and his family make their annual summer visit to his Scottish cousins at Dunstable Castle, while at Downton, Carson faces the task of keeping the servants focused on work.

**10.45 Couples Retreat (2009)** Premiere. A couple on the brink of divorce sign up for relationship therapy on a tropical island, but find they can save money if they persuade their friends to join them. Three more couples go along for the holiday, thinking they do not need any help – but the treatment soon exposes cracks in their relationships. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn. (T) ★★

**12.55 Christmas Carols on ITV** A service with Coronation Street stars, Russell Watson and Jonathan and Charlotte. (T) (R) 1.55 Pushing Daisies (R) 2.45 ITV Nightscreen

## 4.20 The Alternative

Christmas Message By comedian Adam Hills. (T)

**4.25 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show as Christmas dinner comes to life in the Dream Factory.

## 5.30 Channel 4 News (T)

## 5.35 4thought TV (T)

**5.40 The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)** An unassuming hobbit must destroy a magical ring before it falls into evil hands. The first part of the fantasy trilogy, starring Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen and Ian McKellen. With an introduction by Peter Jackson. (T) ★★ ★★

**9.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special** The host presents a festive edition of his talk show, with music by his house band for the night, McFly, who perform a medley of their greatest hits. Chart toppers JLS join Alan on the sofa along with Dragons' Den panellist Hilary Devey, who talks about her two new programmes for Channel 4.

**10.00 Rude Tube** Alex Zane presents a countdown of 50 festive internet clips, featuring moments of yuletide hilarity and insanity. The highlights include the world's worst and sexiest Santas, some rather alternative carols and a memorable Christmas surprise. (T)

**11.05 C4's 30 Greatest Comedy Shows (T) (R)**

**1.05 FILM: Airplane! (1980)** Spoof disaster movie, starring Robert Hays and Leslie Nielsen. (T) ★★ ★★ **2.35 David Blaine: What Is Magic? (T) (R) 3.20 KOTV Boxing Weekly (T) 3.45 Extreme Sailing Series (T) (R) 4.15 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Body Building (T) (R) 4.20 Ultimate Frisbee (T) (R) 4.25 International Volleyball (T) 5.20 Sali Mali (T) (R) 5.25 FILM: Firehouse Dog (2007)** Family comedy, with Josh Hutcherson. ★★

## 5.25 The Santa Incident

(2010) Premiere. Comedy, with Greg Gorman and James Cosmo. (T) ★★ ★

**7.05 Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker**

Festive edition of the documentary series, in which the company's truckers deliver a huge Christmas tree to a Cambridge hospital and a consignment of reindeer for a parade; (T) (R) 5 News

**8.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel** The company's truckers struggle to deliver Christmas trees, turkeys and children's toys during fierce blizzards in time for the start of the yuletide season; (T) (R) 5 News (T)

**9.00 Eddie Stobart's Christmas Delivery** Festive edition of the documentary, in which the company's truckers battle winter conditions to ensure shops and councils receive their supply of Christmas trees and salt. (T) (R)

**10.00 Greatest Christmas TV Moments** Countdown of 50 festive crackers past and present, including classic soap moments, dramatic endings, sitcom specials, comedy sketches and light entertainment highlights that have made the television set the focus of the holiday season for decades. Highlights include famous couples Den and Angie, Jack and Vera, and Gavin & Stacey; popular double acts Morecambe and Wise, the Trotter brothers and Wallace and Gromit; Doctor Who meeting Kylie Minogue; perennial music show Top of the Pops; and the ultimate irony of sitting down to watch the Royle Family sit down to watch TV for an hour. (R)

**12.55 SuperCasino Live** Interactive gaming. **3.55 House Doctor (T) (R) 4.20 HouseBusters (T) (R) 4.45 Great Artists (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge (T) (R) 5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge (T) (R)**

**6.00 Milkshake! 9.40 The Family Recipe (T) (R) 9.50 Dallas (T) (R) 10.40 Cowboy Builders (T) (R) 11.40 Once Upon a Time The Evil Queen hires the Huntsman to kill Snow as his Storybrooke counterpart Sheriff Graham starts to remember his alternative life. (T) (R) 12.40 FILM: The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965)** The story of the life of Jesus, from his birth to eventual betrayal by disciple Judas Iscariot and his death by crucifixion. Biblical drama, with Max von Sydow and David McCallum. (T) ★★ ★



Paul O'Grady with Sophie the Jack Russell

## Gareth's dream changed lives...

IN FEBRUARY, 2011, Gareth Malone went to the Military Base at Chivenor to set up a choir for the wives who are left at home alone, while their men are on duty for months at a time.

In *The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives* (BBC2 8.45pm) Gareth goes back to the small chapel where he first started the choir that was to change their lives.

We hear from Gareth and key members of the choir as they reflect on their extraordinary journey culminating in their performance, at The Royal Albert Hall, of a song specially written by Paul Meador. This seemed like the pinnacle of their achievements, but the film shows how this was the beginning of something much bigger. We see the women as they embark upon launching what was to become a No.1 Christmas single, as they visit 10 Downing Street, perform at the Golden Jubilee and then win a Classical Brit.

We also hear of the legacy of the choir with the setting up of a charitable foundation that provides the support for a growing network of over 60 military wives choirs in bases across the UK, Europe and the Falkland Islands.

As soloist Sam says at the end: "This was Gareth's dream and it came true and not many people can say their dreams have come true in life. I don't even think I could express to Gareth how grateful we all are for it, it's just, he's really changed our lives."

Late View

**6.00 Breakfast (C) 9.00 CBeebies Panto 2012: Jack and the Beanstalk (C) (R) 9.45 Room on the Broom (C) (R) 10.10 The Madagascar Penguins in a Christmas Caper (C) 10.25 FILM: Cars (2006)** An arrogant racing car is waylaid in a sleepy town where he learns to enjoy a slower pace of life. Pixar animated adventure, featuring the voices of Owen Wilson and Paul Newman. (C) ★★ ★ **12.15 News (C) 12.30 Regional News: Weather (C) 12.40 Mr Stink Family** comedy, with Hugh Bonneville. (C) (R)

**6.00 CBeebies: Justin's House Christmas Special.** (C) (R) **6.30 Octonauts and the Great Christmas Rescue (C) (R) 7.00 CBBC: Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.** (C) (R) **7.30 4 O'Clock Club (C) (R) 8.00 MI High (C) (R) 8.30 Hero Squad (C) (R) 9.00 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart (C) (R) 10.00 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild (C) (R) 11.00 John Wilson on Broadway Uncut** Extended version of the BBC Proms performance from the Royal Albert Hall. (C)

**6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou (T) (R) 6.10 Babar and the Adventures of Badou (T) (R) 6.25 The Hive (T) (R) 6.35 The Hive (T) (R) 6.45 The Hive (T) (R) 6.50 Canimals (R) 7.00 Fleabag Monkeyface (T) 7.15 Fleabag Monkeyface (T) 7.30 Almost Naked Animals (T) 8.00 Horrid Henry (T) (R) 8.30 Fort Boyard (T) 9.25 FILM: The Railway Children (1970) (T) ★★ ★ **11.30 Dinner Date (T) 12.30 ITV News and Weather (T) 12.45 FILM: Land of the Lost (2009) (T) ★★****

**7.10 Wilde Stories (T) (R) 7.35 The Art of the Snowman and the Snowdog (T) (R) 7.40 According to Jim (T) (R) 8.10 Everything Loves Raymond (T) (R) 8.40 The Morning Line (T) 9.40 FILM: Valiant (2005)** Computer-animated adventure following a pigeon who volunteers for duty delivering vital messages during the Second World War. With the voice of Ewan McGregor. (T) ★★ ★ **11.10 The Simpsons (T) (R) 11.45 The Simpsons (T) (R) 12.15 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner (T)**

**6.00 Milkshake! 9.40 The Family Recipe (T) (R) 9.50 Dallas (T) (R) 10.40 Cowboy Builders (T) (R) 11.40 Once Upon a Time The Evil Queen hires the Huntsman to kill Snow as his Storybrooke counterpart Sheriff Graham starts to remember his alternative life. (T) (R) 12.40 FILM: The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965)** The story of the life of Jesus, from his birth to eventual betrayal by disciple Judas Iscariot and his death by crucifixion. Biblical drama, with Max von Sydow and David McCallum. (T) ★★ ★

Tomorrow



# Festive Puzzles Extra

## Word Wise

The following words may sound familiar, but do you know what each means?

- 1. UVA**  
A. Roman doorkeeper  
B. Clamour  
C. A grape-like berry
- 2. WALDHORN**  
A. French horn without valves  
B. German forest-ranger  
C. Organ flute stop
- 3. ZINK**  
A. Steel-grey mineral  
B. Old wind instrument  
C. Spanish gypsy
- 4. CHASSEUR**  
A. Silver dish  
B. Huntsman  
C. Fire-box
- 5. SCARFSKIN**  
A. Surface skin  
B. Inner membrane  
C. Waterproof covering
- 6. VIVACE**  
A. Type of fox  
B. Ancient weapon  
C. Lively

## Four W's

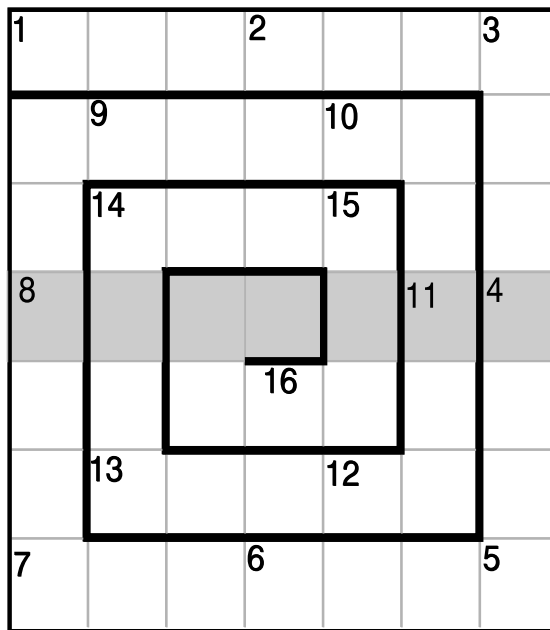
- 1 WHO** wrote the novel The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie?  
**WHAT** rock group recorded the album Metal Box?  
**WHERE** in Surrey is there a statue called The Martian?  
**WHEN** was film Buffy the Vampire Slayer released in the UK?
- 2 WHO** was the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales?  
**WHAT** vehicle maker used a slogan 'Vorsprung durch Technik'?  
**WHERE** were the 1952 Winter Olympics held?  
**WHEN** was the decade that Lapponia, an ethnographic account of the Sami people by Johannes Schefferus, was released?
- 3 WHO** wrote the stage play A Resounding Tinkle?  
**WHAT** international paper size is 105 x 148mm?  
**WHERE** in Canada is the city of Winnipeg?  
**WHEN** did Orange Juice release their debut album You Can't Hide Your Love Forever?
- 4 WHO** wrote or co-wrote the song If I Had a Hammer?  
**WHAT** is the novel by Jane Austen that features the character Sir Walter Elliot?  
**WHERE** in Scotland is the railway station Waverley?  
**WHEN** was the play Oh, What a Lovely War! first performed?
- 5 WHO** wrote the novels Sylvia's Lovers and Cranford?  
**WHAT** was the debut novel of James Reasoner?  
**WHERE** in England is the Jorvik Viking Centre?  
**WHEN** did John Quincy Adams become the sixth President of the United States?

## Who am I?

- one** An actress, I was born in Missouri in 1911. I married five times and was a distant cousin to Lucille Ball. I was Fred Astaire's dance partner in 10 Hollywood musicals, including Top Hat and Shall We Dance.
- two** An author, I was born in Kensington in 1874. My cousin was a well-known right-wing politician. My novels include The Man Who Was Thursday and The Napoleon of Notting Hill.
- three** A singer, I was born in Georgia in 1944. I was the aunt (by marriage) of the late singer Aaliyah. I was the lead singer of the R&B group the Pips, and sang the title track to the 1989 film Licence to Kill.
- four** A musician, I was born in London in 1966. My younger sister is the singer Dido. I founded Cheeky Records in 1991, and I am a member of the electronic group Faithless.
- five** A television presenter, I was born in Newcastle in 1979. I had a small role in the film The Mummy Returns. I made my name on the children's TV series Byker Grove, and have presented on The Big Breakfast.
- six** An actor, I was born in New York in 1960. I have won two Golden Globe awards for my appearances in television films. My recent films include The Lovely Bones and The Devil Wears Prada, and I starred in the US TV series ER.

## Word Spirals

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word. If you have correctly filled in the grid there should be a seven-letter key word reading across from 8.



## WORDSPIRAL 1

1. Cause the death of 2. Whip 3. Car's hooter 4. Bird structure 5. Heavy combat vehicle 6. Considerate 7. Terrible fate 8. Is obliged to 9. Discretion 10. Tinned fish 11. Performs 12. Fizzy water 13. Parched with heat 14. Extinct bird 15. Leave out 16. Conversation.

Key word clue: Occupation

## WORDSPIRAL 2

1. Talon 2. Shed tears 3. Knitting stitch 4. Fail to win 5. British nobleman 6. Speech defect 7. Perambulator 8. Postal system 9. Final 10. Sound quality 11. Engrave 12. Maori war chant 13. Corrosive substance 14. Percussion instrument 15. Labyrinth 16. Every.

Key word clue: Boy's name

## WORDSPIRAL 3

1. Inner planet 2. Self-satisfied 3. Grasp 4. Go by 5. Box, in training 6. Drive on this 7. Slightly wet 8. Nuisance 9. Long journey 10. Military cap 11. Object of worship 12. Molten volcanic rock 13. Unfortunately 14. Indian dress 15. Data 16. Rowing blades.

Key word clue: Vegetable

## WORDSPIRAL 4

1. Close angrily 2. Fail to hit 3. Gone bad 4. Throw of dice 5. Pass the tongue over 6. Cabbage type 7. Hearing organs 8. Demonstrate 9. Desire 10. Cavity 11. Makes mistakes 12. Not fast 13. Feral 14. A protest 15. Betting chances 16. Look through quickly.

Key word clue: Legal term

## WORDSPIRAL 5

1. Golfer's cry 2. Slippery fishes 3. Card game 4. Eye up 5. Simple 6. Egg part 7. Japanese musical instrument 8. Egg-shaped 9. Raise 10. Pith helmet 11. Mosque prayer leader 12. Repair 13. Puts on 14. Ooze 15. Poke 16. Information

Key word clue: Canadian province

## Remember When

The following events all occurred in a year in living memory. Can you guess the year?

- 1**  
1 West Germany won a first football World Cup  
2 Toscanini conducted his final concert  
3 Lester Piggott, at 18 – youngest Derby winner  
4 The new Boeing 707 made its maiden flight
- 2**  
1 Yasser Arafat became new leader of the PLO  
2 Jan Palach set himself alight in Wenceslas Square  
3 Apollo 11 made the moon  
4 Sir Learie Constantine became a life peer
- 3**  
1 The new commercial radio station LBC went on air  
2 A military coup took place in Chile  
3 Picasso died, aged 91  
4 Racing driver Jackie Stewart retired
- 4**  
1 John F Kennedy ran for US Presidency  
2 The Sharpeville massacre of 69 took place  
3 Francis Chichester took 40 days to cross the Atlantic  
4 Bandaranaike became the world's first woman PM
- 5**  
1 Brezhnev and Carter signed the SALT II arms limitation treaty  
2 Ayatollah Khomeini back in Iran after 14 years exile  
3 Margaret Thatcher was PM for the first time  
4 John Wayne died
- 6**  
1 Soccer ground disasters in Bradford and Brussels  
2 Orson Welles and Rock Hudson died  
3 Mikhail Gorbachev was leader of the Soviet Union  
4 Handsworth suffered race-related riots



## Sudoku

		7				6		
			4	6	5			
6		5		3		2		8
	7		2		3		5	
	9	2				3	7	
	3		1		4		8	
7		8		1		4		9
			5	2	9			
			1			5		

SOLUTIONS Wordwise 1: C. 2. A. 3. B. 4. B. 5. A. 6. C. 7. B. 8. B. 9. B. 10. B. 11. B. 12. B. 13. B. 14. B. 15. B. 16. B. Word Spiral 1: 1. Kill 2. Whip 3. Horn 4. Nest 5. Tank 6. Rind 7. Don't 8. Must 9. Tact 10. Pith 11. Ad's 12. Soda 13. And 14. Pith 15. Ooze 16. Information. Word Spiral 2: 1. Talon 2. Shed tears 3. Knitting stitch 4. Fail to win 5. British nobleman 6. Speech defect 7. Perambulator 8. Postal system 9. Final 10. Sound quality 11. Engrave 12. Maori war chant 13. Corrosive substance 14. Percussion instrument 15. Labyrinth 16. Every. Word Spiral 3: 1. Inner planet 2. Self-satisfied 3. Grasp 4. Go by 5. Box, in training 6. Drive on this 7. Slightly wet 8. Nuisance 9. Long journey 10. Military cap 11. Object of worship 12. Molten volcanic rock 13. Unfortunately 14. Indian dress 15. Data 16. Rowing blades. Word Spiral 4: 1. Close angrily 2. Fail to hit 3. Gone bad 4. Throw of dice 5. Pass the tongue over 6. Cabbage type 7. Hearing organs 8. Demonstrate 9. Desire 10. Cavity 11. Makes mistakes 12. Not fast 13. Feral 14. A protest 15. Betting chances 16. Look through quickly. Word Spiral 5: 1. Golfer's cry 2. Slippery fishes 3. Card game 4. Eye up 5. Simple 6. Egg part 7. Japanese musical instrument 8. Egg-shaped 9. Raise 10. Pith helmet 11. Mosque prayer leader 12. Repair 13. Puts on 14. Ooze 15. Poke 16. Information. Key word clue: Canadian province



## BOXING DAY TV

## CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Early View

## BBC 1



**Gary Lineker presents Match of the Day, shown at 10.25pm**

**12.40 Mr Stink** Family comedy, starring Hugh Bonneville. (C) (R) **1.40 FILM: Happy Feet (2006)** A young penguin disappoints his fellow seabirds with his inability to sing – but instead displays a remarkable talent for tap dancing. However, his elders refuse to accept this outlandish behaviour and send the youngster into exile, marking the start of a wonderful journey. Animated adventure, with the voices of Elijah Wood and Robin Williams. (C) ★★★

## BBC 2



**Morecambe & Wise: Song and Dance, shown at 7.00pm**

**11.00 John Wilson on Broadway** Uncut Extended version of the BBC Proms performance of Broadway classics. (C) **1.10 Darcy Bussell Dances Hollywood** The former Royal Ballet star celebrates classic dance musicals. (C) (R) **2.40 FILM: An American in Paris (1951)** A struggling American painter living in Paris is torn between two women – his wealthy patroness and an engaged Frenchwoman. Oscar-winning musical, with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. (C) ★★★★★

## ITV 1



**Debbie loses it and tries to run Cameron over, Emmerdale, on at 7.00pm**

**12.45 FILM: Land of the Lost (2009)** An eccentric scientist and his two friends are transported into another dimension inhabited by dinosaurs. Comedy adventure, starring Will Ferrell, Anna Friel and Danny McBride. (T) ★★ **2.25 The Spice Girls' Story: Viva Forever!** Documentary telling the story of the pop group's rise to fame through interviews with all five members, and looking at the making of the West End musical based on their hit songs. (T) (R)

## Ch 4



**Noomi Rapace stars, The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, on at 10.30pm**

**12.15 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show as Christmas dinner comes to life in the Dream Factory. (T) **1.15 Channel 4 Racing** Alastair Down presents live coverage of five Boxing Day races. From Kempton Park, races start at 1.25, 2.00, 2.35 and 3.10. From Wetherby at 1.45. With commentary and analysis by Ian Bartlett, John Francome, Simon Holt, John McCrick and Jim McGrath. (T)

## Ch 5



**Dynamo features in TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks, on at 7.10pm**

**12.40 FILM: The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965)** The life of Jesus, from His lowly birth in Bethlehem and the miracles He performed, to His ultimate betrayal at the hands of disciple Judas Iscariot and His death by crucifixion. Biblical drama, starring Max von Sydow, David McCallum, Charlton Heston, Telly Savalas, John Wayne, Sidney Poitier, Angela Lansbury, Pat Boone, Richard Conte, Jose Ferrer, Martin Landau, Claude Rains and Roddy McDowall. (T) ★★★

## Whatever happened to Tippi?

IT SHOULD have been a momentous turning point in her life – an event that launched an amazing acting career...

So where did things go so wrong for Tippi Hedren? She probably couldn't believe her luck when, in 1961, she was spotted modelling in an advert by Alfred Hitchcock, who then plucked her from obscurity, put her under a seven-year contract and began moulding her into the kind of blonde, ice beauty he preferred.

He'd already worked with the likes of Grace Kelly and Kim Novak, but Hedren was different – largely inexperienced as an actress and desperate for success so she could support her young daughter, who would grow up to become actress Melanie Griffith.

Sadly, her dream of becoming a star soon turned into a nightmare. The great director eventually cast her in two of his films. *The Birds* was a massive success, but *Marnie* was a disappointment.

But it's the making of these films and the difficult, manipulative relationship between Hitch and his muse that's perhaps the most interesting aspect of them.

*The Girl* (BBC2, 9pm) aims to shed new light on the situation, and takes as its inspiration Donald Spoto's book *Spellbound by Beauty*, which examines Hitch's leading ladies.

Screenwriter Gwyneth Hughes also interviewed Hedren in an attempt to make the drama as authentic as possible.

"Back then women were supposed to put up with unwanted male attention, or risk getting the blame for it," explains Hughes.

"So Tippi felt powerless in the face of the great man's desire, and had nobody she

could talk to about it. She suffered in lonely silence, until she could stand it no more, and the dream of a film career ended in a bleak, ugly rupture with the man who discovered her.

"How life has changed since then! When I went to interview Tippi myself at Shambala, the charitable foundation where she cares for abandoned or maltreated big cats, she told me with a wry smile that if the whole thing happened today, she could sue and become a rich woman!"

"But as I talked in more depth with her, and with surviving members of Hitch's film crew, I began to see more and more clearly that this was much more than just an everyday story of a powerful boss and a casting couch..."

## Expert

Anthony Hopkins will play Hitch in a forthcoming movie about the making of *Psycho*, but here Toby Jones brings the great director back to life with a haunting performance.

Sienna Miller, who portrays Hedren, admits to being in awe of him: "I think for me what's been so extraordinary about making this film is having the opportunity to work opposite Toby Jones and see his process."

"Toby is an expert at playing anyone and anything. He has really morphed into Alfred Hitchcock – who was an intriguing man in his own right. I think what Toby has really managed to capture is the humour, the sadness and the genius of the man."

"You come out understanding all three, which makes it wonderful."

Imelda Staunton and Peggy Robertson also star in a remarkable drama that will surely win numerous trophies once the awards season begins again.



High fives celebrate the new season of *Miranda* (Miranda Hart) on BBC1

## Miranda lightens comedy darkness

IT SEEMS that after years of dark, edgy comedies, all we really wanted was something light and fluffier, where people regularly fall over, and the cast wave to us over the closing credits.

*Miranda* (BBC1, 9pm) also has what every feel-good sitcom needs – a will-they-won't-they romance between our accident-prone heroine and her handsome chef pal Gary (Tom Ellis).

As this new series begins, they are still pretending they are just good friends, but can their relationship really remain completely platonic?

Meanwhile, Penny (Patricia Hodge) is threatening to cancel her daughter's Christmas if she doesn't start sorting her life out – and apparently, the first step towards turning Miranda into a high-flyer is a detox.

If that goes well, maybe she'll be able to follow Steve's (Sarah Hadland) lead and bag herself an executive job.

Maybe this will even be the day Miranda finally does something to make herself feel proud. Or then again, maybe not.

Prime Time

**3.20 Enchanted (2007)** Fantasy comedy, with Amy Adams and Patrick Dempsey. (C) ★★★

**5.00 How to Train Your Dragon (2010)** Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Jay Baruchel and Gerard Butler. (C) ★★★

**6.30 BBC News; Weather. (C)**  
**6.40 Midlands Today; Weather. (C)**

**6.50 Alice in Wonderland (2010)** Premiere. Fantasy adventure, starring Mia Wasikowska. (C) ★★★

**8.30 EastEnders** Derek's death has left a dark cloud over the Brannings, with Carol doing her best to hold it together for Alice, Joey's emotions getting the better of him and Max insisting they all get their stories straight before speaking to the police. But his problems don't end there – he is still struggling in light of the bombshell his brother dropped about his long-held secret. (C)

**9.00 Miranda** New series. The comedy series returns with a festive special that sees Penny threatening to cancel the shop owner's Christmas if she fails to get her life in order. (C)

**9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys** Agnes vows to make her retelling of the Nativity at the community centre unforgettable. The second of two festive editions of the comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (C)

**10.00 BBC News; Weather. (C)**  
**10.20 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws (C)**

**10.25 Match of the Day** Gary Lineker presents action from today's full schedule of Premier League fixtures, including Manchester United v Newcastle United and Sunderland v Manchester City. (C)

**12.00 FILM: Blades of Glory (2007)** Comedy, starring Will Ferrell, Jon Heder, Amy Poehler and Will Arnett. (C) ★★★ **1.25 Weatherview (C)** **1.30 BBC News (C)**

**4.30 Final Score** Round-up of football results. (C)

**5.30 Miss Potter (2006)** Biographical period drama, starring Renee Zellweger, Ewan McGregor, Emily Watson and Barbara Flynn. (C) ★★★

**7.00 Morecambe & Wise: Song and Dance** Penelope Keith presents a look through the archives at the music routines from the comedy duo's shows, showcasing the best ones and revealing the stories behind them. (C) (R)

**8.00 Blackpool: Big Night Out** Documentary looking at the Lancashire seaside resort through the eyes of acts who have performed there. Blackpool was once at the heart of the British entertainment industry and launched the careers of Morecambe and Wise, as well as attracting world-famous artists including Frank Sinatra. With contributions by Ken Dodd, Roy 'Chubby' Brown, Syd Little and Cannon and Ball. (C)

**9.00 The Girl** Toby Jones and Sienna Miller star in this one-off drama based on the story of director Alfred Hitchcock's obsession with Tippi Hedren, leading lady of his 1963 thriller *The Birds*. Imelda Staunton and Penelope Wilton co-star. (C)

**10.30 Rebecca (1940)** The naive second wife of a wealthy Cornish landowner is forced to live in the shadow of her glamorous predecessor. Alfred Hitchcock's romantic drama, based on the novel by Daphne du Maurier, starring Laurence Olivier, Nigel Bruce and Joan Fontaine. (b/w) ★★★★★

**12.35 Paul Merton Looks at Alfred Hitchcock (C)** **1.35 FILM: Mr and Mrs Smith (1941)** Alfred Hitchcock's romantic comedy with Carole Lombard and Robert Montgomery. (b/w) (C) ★★★

**3.55 This Is Lionel Richie** The singer performs his biggest and best-loved hits in front of a studio audience, and is joined on stage for duets by chart star Pixie Lott and X Factor runner-up Rebecca Ferguson. (T) (R)

**5.00 ITV News and Weather (T)**

**5.15 Toy Story 2 (1999)** Buzz Lightyear races to rescue Woody when he is stolen by a toy collector planning to sell him to a museum. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. (T) ★★★★★

**7.00 Emmerdale** Debbie loses it and tries to run Cameron over, Edna feels increasingly isolated following the burglary, and Alicia tells Jacob her relationship with David has ended. (T)

**7.30 Coronation Street** Kylie wakes up with another man and begs him to pretend nothing happened. Jenna tells Sally and Sophie that Kevin made a pass at her, while Nick and Leanne face the future. (T)

**8.00 That Dog Can Dance!** Christine Bleakley hosts a one-off talent show in which contestants and their pets perform in front of Sharon Osbourne, Bill Bailey and Britain's Got Talent winner Ashleigh Butler. (T)

**9.00 DoorsOpen** A millionaire, a professor and a banker undertake an audacious art heist. Thriller based on the book by Ian Rankin, starring Douglas Henshall and Stephen Fry. (T)

**11.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather (T)**

**11.15 Atmenment (2007)** Romantic period drama, starring Keira Knightley. (T) ★★★★★

**1.25 Celebrity Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** Pantomime Special (T) **2.20 FILM: Every Which Way But Loose (1978)** Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. (T) ★★★★★ **4.15 ITV Nightscreen**

**6.00 CITV (T)** **9.25 Dickinson's Real Deal** David Dickinson travels to Salisbury, Wiltshire, with dealers David Hakeney, Brenda Haller and James Layte. A selection of lead soldiers is a hit at auction. (T) (R) **10.25 FILM: Columbo: Requiem for a Falling Star (1973)** An ageing movie actress resorts to murder to take revenge on a vicious gossip columnist – only to kill the wrong person. Crime drama, with Peter Falk, Anne Baxter and Mel Ferrer. (T) ★★★★★ **11.55 Dinner Date (T)** **12.50 ITV News and Weather (T)**

**3.40 Turner & Hooch (1989)** Family canine comedy, starring Tom Hanks. (T) ★★★★★

**5.40 The Simpsons** Bart becomes Nelson's best friend. (T) (R)

**6.10 Hollyoaks** The McQueens find a baby abandoned in their garden on Christmas Day. (T)

**6.40 Channel 4 News (T)**

**6.50 4thought.tv** With Britons set to spend in excess of £16 billion on gifts this year, 4thought.tv asks people to come up with other things they can give at Christmas.

**6.55 The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002)** Frodo and Sam continue their quest to destroy the all-powerful ring, bringing them face to face with the magical artefact's twisted former owner Gollum. Meanwhile, their allies prepare to make a desperate last stand against the vast armies of the corrupted wizard Saruman, who has declared war on a neighbouring kingdom.

Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Andy Serkis and Christopher Lee. With an introduction by Peter Jackson. (T) ★★★★★

**10.30 The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2009)** Premiere. A journalist and a computer hacker are hired to investigate a suspicious death that happened 40 years ago. Mystery thriller, starring Michael Nyqvist. ★★★★★

**1.20 FILM: Airplane II: The Sequel (1982)** Disaster movie spoof sequel, starring Robert Hays. (T) ★★ **2.45 The Good Wife (T)** **3.25 St Elsewhere (T)** **4.15 90210 (T)** **4.55 90210 (T)** **5.35 Deal or No Deal** Game show. (T) (R)

**6.25 Close 6.30 The Hoobs (T)** **6.55 The Hoobs (T)** **7.20 Wilde Stories (T)** **7.45 According to Jim (T)** **8.15 Everybody Loves Raymond (T)** **8.45 Frasier (T)** **9.15 Frasier (T)** **9.50 The Big Bang Theory (T)** **10.20 The Big Bang Theory (T)** **10.50 The Simpsons (T)** **11.20 The Simpsons** Three stories of revenge Springfield style. (T) (R) **11.50 FILM: Astro Boy (2009)** Premiere. Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Freddie Highmore. (T) ★★★★★

**6.00 Milkshake! (T)** **9.45 The Family Recipe (T)** **9.55 Dallas (T)** **10.50 Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel** The truckers struggle to deliver 500,000 Christmas trees to UK garden centres. (T) (R) **11.50 Once Upon a Time** Mr Gold helps Emma in her campaign to become sheriff. (T) (R) **12.50 FILM: Fiddler on the Roof (1971)** A poor Jewish milkman in Ukraine hopes to find husbands for his three eldest daughters – but they would rather choose for themselves. Musical, starring Topol. (T) ★★★★★

**6.00 Breakfast (C)** **8.00 Match of the Day** Including highlights of Manchester United v Newcastle United. (C) (R) **9.30 FILM: The Thief Lord (2005)** Fantasy adventure, starring Aaron Johnson. (C) ★★ **11.00 FILM: 101 Dalmatians (1996)** An evil fashion designer is bent on turning a litter of puppies into a magnificent fur coat. Disney comedy adventure remake, starring Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson. (C) ★★ **12.40 BBC News (C)** **12.55 Regional News; Weather (C)**

**6.00 CBeebies:** Pingu. (R) **6.05 Timmy Time (C)** (R) **6.20 Rastamouse (C)** (R) **6.30 The Large Family (C)** (R) **6.40 Andy's Wild Adventures (C)** (R) **7.00 CBBC:** Naomi's Nightmares. (C) (R) **7.30 4 O'Clock Club (C)** (R) **8.00 M10 High (C)** (R) **8.30 Hero Squad (C)** (R) **8.00 The Bear Family and Me (C)** (R) **10.00 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild (C)** (R) **11.00 FILM: Viva Knievel! (1977)** Motorcycling adventure, starring Evel Knievel. (C) ★★ **12.45 Racing** from Chepstow

**6.00 Breakfast (C)** **8.00 Match of the Day** Including highlights of Manchester United v Newcastle United. (C) (R) **9.30 FILM: The Thief Lord (2005)** Fantasy adventure, starring Aaron Johnson. (C) ★★ **11.00 FILM: 101 Dalmatians (1996)** An evil fashion designer is bent on turning a litter of puppies into a magnificent fur coat. Disney comedy adventure remake, starring Glenn Close, Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson. (C) ★★ **12.40 BBC News (C)** **12.55 Regional News; Weather (C)**

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Late View

Tomorrow



# Festive Puzzles Extra

## Word Wise

The following words may sound familiar, but do you know what each means?

1. WEALD

A. River barrier  
B. Open country  
C. Using an axe
2. TRAGACANTH

A. Greek tragedy  
B. A gum  
C. Illegal trading
3. REVERE

A. Venerate  
B. Coal seam  
C. Join
4. PHLOGISTON

A. Magnesia mica  
B. Vascular bundle  
C. A hypothetical substance
5. LAPIS

A. Worked gold  
B. A stone  
C. Part of a coat
6. IMPOST

A. Imposition  
B. A tax  
C. Laying on

## Four W's

- 1 WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN
- 2 WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN
- 3 WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN
- 4 WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN
- 5 WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN

## Who am I?

- one

A singer, I was born in Virginia in 1971. My real first name is Melissa. My hit singles have included Get Ur Freak On and Pass That Dutch, and one of my albums is entitled Block Party.
- two

A writer, I was born in Surrey in 1908. My real name was Denis Pratt. I appeared in the films Philadelphia and To Wong Foo Thanks For Everything, Julie Newmar, and became a gay icon on publication of my 1968 memoir The Naked Civil Servant.
- three

An actress, I was born in Lincolnshire in 1929. I played my first film role in Moby Dick in 1956. My other films include Curious George and Tea With Mussolini and I am the widow of Laurence Olivier.
- four

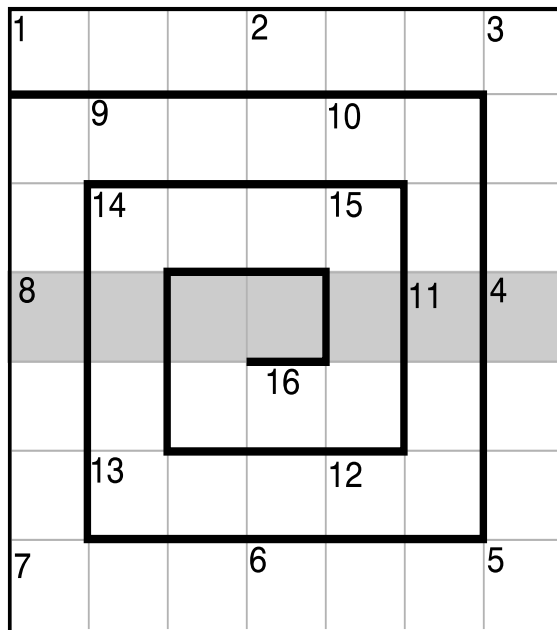
A model, I was born in Illinois in 1966. I hosted MTV's House Of Style in the 1980s and 1990s. I have a trademark mole above my lip and I used to be married to Richard Gere.
- five

An actor, I was born in Croatia in 1972. I live in Los Angeles and in 1999 I was voted People magazine's Sexiest Import. I am best known for playing Dr Luka Kovac in the US TV drama ER.
- six

A film director, I was born on the Isle of Wight in 1954. In the 1980s I worked as a script editor for the TV series Grange Hill. I directed the films The English Patient, Cold Mountain and The Talented Mr Ripley.

## Word Spirals

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word. If you have correctly filled in the grid there should be a seven-letter key word reading across from 8.



## WORDSPIRAL 1

1. Brave man 2. Burden 3. Large waterbird 4. Christmas 5. Area of garden grass 6. Midday 7. Immediately following 8. Wood type 9. Osculate 10. Painful 11. Muslim ruler 12. Smallest of a litter 13. Device, implement 14. Plant part 15. Movie 16. Dairy product  
Key word clue: Famous novelist

## WORDSPIRAL 2

1. Twelve inches 2. Thick layer of grass 3. Football supporters 4. Be angrily silent 5. Hit with the foot 6. Retain 7. Bucket 8. Be fond of 9. Single European currency 10. Darts line 11. Deserve 12. Signals agreement 13. Halt 14. Cougar 15. Appends 16. Incentive  
Key word clue: Place in France

## WORDSPIRAL 3

1. Perceive sound 2. Roster 3. Male voice 4. Unlocked 5. Naked figure 6. Flat 7. Unfeeling 8. Alcoholic drink 9. Wealthy 10. Wolf-like cry 11. Missing 12. Snare 13. Stopper 14. Virtuous 15. Small pointed missile 16. Upper-class person  
Key word clue: Mammal type.

## WORDSPIRAL 4

1. Touch 2. Mass of bread 3. Past tense of fly 4. Broad 5. Reflection of sound 6. Greek spirit 7. Chooses 8. Before long 9. No votes 10. Long story 11. Eagerly expectant 12. Festive occasion 13. Inquires 14. Settee 15. First man 16. Female servant.  
Key word clue: English mountain

## WORDSPIRAL 5

1. Beach grains 2. Diesel oil 3. Morally despicable 4. Otherwise 5. Fencing sword 6. Epochs 7. Break suddenly 8. Single step 9. Simple 10. American, slang 11. Eager 12. Requirement 13. Unable to hear 14. Drop 15. Produces eggs 16. Synchronise, in short  
Key word clue: Food item

## Remember When

The following events all occurred in a year in living memory. Can you guess the year?

- 1

1 The Persian oil industry was nationalised  
2 Labour Minister Aneurin Bevan resigned from the Government  
3 Ivor Novello died  
4 King Leopold of the Belgians abdicated
- 2

1 Manchester United beat Benfica in the final of the European Cup  
2 Tony Hancock committed suicide  
3 A two-tier postal system began in the UK  
4 Bobby Kennedy was assassinated
- 3

1 Laurence Olivier's film version of Hamlet won Best Picture Oscar  
2 Vyacheslav Molotov stepped down as Soviet foreign minister  
3 India became the first republic within the Commonwealth  
4 Boxer Joe Louis retired
- 4

1 John McEnroe became Wimbledon singles champ for the first time  
2 Bob Marley died  
3 Brideshead Revisited was shown on television  
4 Peter Sutcliffe named as the Yorkshire Ripper
- 5

1 Andres Segovia and Jacqueline du Pre died  
2 Princess Anne was created Princess Royal  
3 Fiji became a republic  
4 German Mathias Rust's plane lands in Red Square
- 6

1 Tony Jacklin became the first Briton to win the US Open for 50 years  
2 Janis Joplin died  
3 The New English Bible went on sale  
4 The UK age of majority was reduced from 21 to 18



## Sudoku

4		3		8			2	
	6			2			7	
				6		4		3
		9	7		1	3		
3	4							1
		7	4		2	6	9	
			5		3			
	2	6	1	4			8	
	4			7		9		

**SOLUTIONS Wordwise** 1 B; 2 B; 3 A; 4 C; 5 B; 6 B; 7 A; 8 C; 9 A; 10 C; 11 B; 12 B; 13 B; 14 B; 15 B; 16 B. **Who am I?** 1 Missy Elliott; 2 Quentin Crisp; 3 Joan Plowright; 4 Cindy Crawford; 5 Goran Visnjic; 6 Anthony Minghella. **Word Spirals** 1. Brave man 2. Burden 3. Large waterbird 4. Christmas 5. Area of garden grass 6. Midday 7. Immediately following 8. Wood type 9. Osculate 10. Painful 11. Muslim ruler 12. Smallest of a litter 13. Device, implement 14. Plant part 15. Movie 16. Dairy product. **WORDSPIRAL 1** 1. Twelve inches 2. Thick layer of grass 3. Football supporters 4. Be angrily silent 5. Hit with the foot 6. Retain 7. Bucket 8. Be fond of 9. Single European currency 10. Darts line 11. Deserve 12. Signals agreement 13. Halt 14. Cougar 15. Appends 16. Incentive. **WORDSPIRAL 2** 1. Perceive sound 2. Roster 3. Male voice 4. Unlocked 5. Naked figure 6. Flat 7. Unfeeling 8. Alcoholic drink 9. Wealthy 10. Wolf-like cry 11. Missing 12. Snare 13. Stopper 14. Virtuous 15. Small pointed missile 16. Upper-class person. **WORDSPIRAL 3** 1. Touch 2. Mass of bread 3. Past tense of fly 4. Broad 5. Reflection of sound 6. Greek spirit 7. Chooses 8. Before long 9. No votes 10. Long story 11. Eagerly expectant 12. Festive occasion 13. Inquires 14. Settee 15. First man 16. Female servant. **WORDSPIRAL 4** 1. Beach grains 2. Diesel oil 3. Morally despicable 4. Otherwise 5. Fencing sword 6. Epochs 7. Break suddenly 8. Single step 9. Simple 10. American, slang 11. Eager 12. Requirement 13. Unable to hear 14. Drop 15. Produces eggs 16. Synchronise, in short. **WORDSPIRAL 5** 1. Tony Jacklin became the first Briton to win the US Open for 50 years 2. Janis Joplin died 3. The New English Bible went on sale 4. The UK age of majority was reduced from 21 to 18.



## DECEMBER 27 TV

## CHRISTMAS CRACKER

## Early View

## BBC 1



**Ian Hislop features on Have I Got News for You 2012, shown at 7.30pm**

**1.00 My Family** Festive edition of the comedy from 2004. Robert Lindsay and Zoe Wanamaker star. (C) (R) **1.50 Donkey's Caroling** Christmas-tacular Animated short following the efforts of lovable Shrek character Donkey, who tries to get his friends in a festive mood. (C) **2.00 FILM: Bolt** (2008) The canine star of a TV show, who believes his on-screen adventures are real, tries to find his way home. Animated adventure, with the voice of John Travolta. (C) ★★★

## BBC 2



**Angus Deayton in World's Most Dangerous Roads, on at 9.00pm**

**12.45 Racing from Chepstow** Clare Balding presents live coverage of four of today's races, where the 2.10 Welsh National takes centre stage on the biggest day of the Welsh racing calendar. The Grade Three National Hunt Chase is open to horses aged four years and older, and was first run in 1895. Charlie Poste rode the Richard Lee-trained Le Beau Bai to victory in last year's feature race. Plus, races at 1.00, 1.30 and 2.45. (C)

## ITV 1



**Natalie Anderson features in All Star Family Fortunes, 7.30pm**

**12.50 ITV News and Weather;** Weather. (T) **1.10 FILM: Free Willy 3: The Rescue** (1997) The amiable killer whale is reunited with his human friend, who protects him and his pod from a gang of poachers. Family adventure, with Jason James Richter. (T) ★★★ **2.50 FILM: Babe** (1995) A piglet dreams of being a champion sheepdog but several greedy humans are determined to see him end up on a dinner plate. Family comedy, with James Cromwell. (T) ★★★

## Ch 4



**George Clarke presents a new series of The Restoration Man, 9.00pm**

**11.50 FILM: Astro Boy** (2009) Premiere. An inventor creates a robot child, which a power-mad president wants to use as a weapon. Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voices of Freddie Highmore and Nicolas Cage. (T) ★★★ **1.35 FILM: City of Ember** (2008) Premiere. Two teenagers living in an underground city try to find a way to the surface to save their doomed home. Fantasy adventure, starring Saoirse Ronan and Harry Treadaway. (T) ★★

## Ch 5



**Patrick Swayze stars in the romantic drama, Dirty Dancing, 9.00pm**

**12.50 FILM: Fiddler on the Roof** (1971) A poor Jewish milkman is set on finding good husbands for his three eldest daughters while coming to terms with the pressures of village life in Ukraine under Tsarist rule. Unfortunately, his well-meaning plan is hampered by the girls' obstinate insistence on making their own marital choices. Norman Jewison's musical, starring Topal, Norma Crane, Paul Michael Glaser and Leonard Frey. (T) ★★★

## Time traveller Michelle goes back to the 70s

ON JANUARY 1, Michelle Dockery will have more excuse than most if she occasionally forgets what year it is. After all, over Christmas, she'll not only be going back to the 1920s for Downton Abbey, she's also time travelling to 1976 in *Restless* (BBC1, 9pm), an epic, two-part drama adapted by William Boyd from his own novel.

The actress stars as graduate student Ruth Gilmartin, who makes what she thinks is just an ordinary visit to her mother's house in a Cambridgeshire village.

Instead, it leaves her questioning everything she thought she knew, as her mum (Charlotte Rampling) hands over a draft of her autobiography that reveals she's not really the nice, respectable Sally Gilmartin, but Russian-born spy Eva Delectorskaya.

She's been on the run for 30 years, and is only coming clean about her real identity now because she fears someone is trying to kill her.

Understandably, Ruth is initially sceptical. Michelle says: "When Sally first hands Ruth her memoir to read, Ruth is not convinced and believes these to be the ramblings of a woman showing signs of losing her mind."

"The moment Ruth realises that this is real is when she follows Sally to a gun shop and discovers her buying a huge shotgun. "That's when it really starts to sink in that this could all be true."

Viewers get their own proof through a series of flashbacks showing how the young Eva (Hayley Atwell) encountered Englishman Lucas Romer (Rufus Sewell) in Paris in 1939, when he recruited her to work for the

British Secret Service. As her unusual training begins, Eva finds herself falling for her handler, but their first mission shows just how dangerous her new job will be.

Meanwhile, in 1976, Sally tells her daughter that Romer (Michael Gambon) is the only one who can end her years of secrecy and deceit, but now that he's a respected pillar of the establishment, will he want to be reminded of his past?

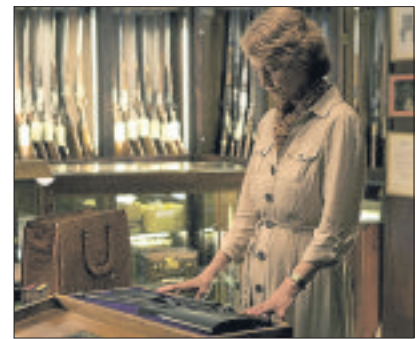
While Sally may have reservations about getting dragged into the world of international espionage, Michelle had no such doubts about taking the role in *Restless*.

For a start, it gave her the chance to work with Rampling. "Charlotte has been an idol of mine since I wanted to be an actress. I've watched pretty much everything she's been in and I was just really excited to hear that she was playing my mum."

## Funny

"She has got such a brilliant sense of humour when it comes to the work. She doesn't take herself seriously, and she's really funny. We grew quite close as it went along."

And then of course, there was the script: "I think the title refers particularly to the three women - there is an anxiousness about both the older and younger Eva which then extends to Ruth, who becomes far more restless as the drama progresses because she doesn't trust anyone. She doesn't know what's real and what's not. "It's a fascinating story. I read it about three times because it is a complicated plot, but I think it will be really exciting on screen."



Charlotte Rampling stars as the not-so-respectable Sally Gilmartin in *Restless* (BBC1)

## Happy workers spur Mary on...

MARY Portas could never be accused of being work-shy. So if it's business acumen you need pointing in the direction of, she's your go-to woman.

But here's where it all gets really interesting, and we can find out once and for all if Mary practises what she so passionately preaches. A year ago, she launched her most ambitious project to date - an attempt to reignite the UK's clothing industry by starting her own production line, manufacturing British knickers.

In *Mary's Bottom Line* (Channel 4, 8pm), we check in with her to see how all is going, and with Mary and her staff working flat-out to meet demand for the Christmas market, she sees how other parts of the British textile industry can indeed be transformed with British-based manufacturing.

At the factory, Mary's trainees explain how a steady job and regular pay packet have actually changed their lives, and its comments like this that spur Mary on in further projects - like her anti-cellulite knicker prototype which she's keen to road-test.

With the nine-month funding soon to come to an end, and her trainees almost ready to graduate, has Mary done enough for her business?

## Prime Time

**3.25 Monsters vs Aliens** (2009) A giant woman joins a team of strange creatures fighting to save the world from an alien invasion. Animated sci-fi comedy, featuring the voices of Reese Witherspoon and Hugh Laurie. (C) ★★★

**4.50 Dragons: Gift of the Night Fury** Animated short film based on How to Train Your Dragon. (C)

**5.15 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out** The duo embark on their first adventure. (C) (R)

**5.40 Pointless Celebrities** With Laila Morse, Anna Karen, Verity Rushworth and Sue Jenkins. (C)

**6.30 BBC News;** Weather. (C)

**6.45 Midlands Today** (C)

**7.00 Celebrity Mastermind** New series. With Val McDermid, Hannah Cockcroft and Crissy Rock.

**7.30 Have I Got News for You 2012** A compilation of highlights from the past year. Last in the series. (C)

**8.00 EastEnders** Tensions are high between Max and Tanya as she demands to know about his secret, only to wish she hadn't asked. Liam gets a games console for Christmas, although Bianca is horrified when she discovers where it came from. (C)

**9.00 Restless** A woman reveals her secret past as a British spy to her daughter, and why she believes her life is now in danger. (C)

**10.30 BBC News** (C)

**10.45 Regional News** (C)

**10.55 Coldplay: MX World Tour 2012** Documentary following the band's Mylo Xyloto world tour, including footage from their shows at Paris's Stade de France, Montreal's Bell Centre and Glastonbury 2011. (C)

**11.55 Point Break** (1991) Thriller, starring Keanu Reeves. (C) ★★★

**1.55 Skilling Weather** (C) **2.00 Sign Zone: Snow Babies** (C) (R) **3.00 Sign Zone: Wartime Farm Christmas** (C) (R) **4.00 Sign Zone: See Hear** (C) (R) **4.30 BBC News**

**3.05 Secretariat** (2010) Premiere. A housewife takes over her ailing father's stables, and trains a racehorse through a spectacular winning streak. Fact-based drama, starring Diane Lane and John Malkovich. (C) ★★★

**4.55 Nature's Wildest Events** Part one of two. Chris Packham investigates unusual natural events. (C) (R)

**5.55 The Cockleshell Heroes** (1955) British Marines canoe into Bordeaux on a mission to sabotage the German fleet. Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Jose Ferrer. (C) ★★★

**7.30 Dad's Army** Pompous Captain Mainwaring proves he is a softie at heart by organising a turkey dinner as a Christmas treat for the struggling senior citizens of Walmington-on-Sea. Festive episode from 1974, starring Arthur Lowe, John Le Mesurier and John Laurie. (C) (R)

**8.00 Racing Legends: Stirling Moss** New series. Celebrity car enthusiasts pay tribute to British driving greats and re-enact one of their most famous races, beginning with Patrick Stewart's profile of Stirling Moss. (C)

**9.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads** New series. Comedy actor Angus Deayton and broadcaster Mariella Frostrup brave broken bridges and flimsy ferries as they drive up Madagascar's eastern coast. (C)

**10.00 Mock the Week** Dara O Briain presents highlights from the series. (C)

**11.00 Dragons' Den Christmas Special** Entrepreneurs pitch festive business ideas. (C) (R)

**12.00 Qi** (C) (R) **12.30 Hebburn** (C) (R) **1.00 Twenty Twelve** (C) (R) **1.30 FILM: This Land is Mine** (1943) Second World War drama. (b/w) (C) ★★★ **3.10 BBC News** **4.30 Close**

**12.00 Qi** (C) (R) **12.30 Hebburn** (C) (R) **1.00 Twenty Twelve** (C) (R) **1.30 FILM: This Land is Mine** (1943) Second World War drama. (b/w) (C) ★★★ **3.10 BBC News** **4.30 Close**

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**4.30 Downton Abbey** Robert and his family visit his Scottish cousins at Dunleath Castle. (T) (R)

**6.30 Central Tonight** (T)

**6.45 ITV News and Weather**

**7.00 Emmerdale** Cameron claims his van is missing and, in a panic, finds himself telling the police that Cain and Debbie may have stolen it, before taking the vehicle out to the countryside to destroy the evidence of his crime. Meanwhile, Katie doubles over in pain and ends up in hospital, and Bernice starts to seriously think about her future in the village, revealing to Nicola that she hopes to take over the Woolpack. (T)

**7.30 All Star Family Fortunes** Teams from soap Emmerdale and breakfast programme Daybreak take part in the game show, hoping to land a £30,000 prize for charity. Vernon Kay hosts. (T)

**8.30 Emmerdale** Katie undergoes surgery on her ovary, but a complication leaves Declan devastated. Moira starts flirting with the new mechanic, while Bernice looks forward to taking over the pub. (T)

**9.00 Pantol** Festive comedy drama about a pantomime troupe preparing to perform Dick Whittington.

**10.30 ITV News;** Weather. (T)

**10.45 The Holiday** (2006) Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners, but as the house swap draws to a close, difficult decisions have to be made about their blossoming relationships. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz. (T) ★★

**1.20 Jackpot247** Interactive gaming. **3.00 ITV Nightscreen** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** (T) (R)

**6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou** (T) (R) **6.10 Babar and the Adventures of Badou** (T) (R) **6.25 The Hive** **6.50 Animals** (T) (R) **7.00 Fleabag Monkeyface** (T) **7.15 Fleabag Monkeyface** (T) **7.35 FILM: The Perfect Man** (2005) (T) ★ **9.25 Tipping Point** (T) **10.25 May the Best House Win - Viva Espana** (T) **11.20 Dinner Date** (T) **12.25 ITV News and Weather** (T) **12.40 Local News and Weather** (T) **12.45 FILM: Doc Hollywood** (1991) Comedy, with Michael J. Fox. (T) ★★★

**6.25 Sali Mali** (T) (R) **6.30 The Treacle People** (T) (R) **6.40 The Hoobs** (T) (R) **7.05 Wilde Stories** (T) (R) **7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond** (T) (R) **8.00 Frasier** (T) (R) **8.35 Frasier** (T) (R) **9.05 The Big Bang Theory** (T) **9.35 The Big Bang Theory** (T) **10.05 The Simpsons** (T) (R) **10.35 The Simpsons** (T) (R) **11.05 FILM: Planet 51** (2009) Premiere. Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Dwayne Johnson. (T) ★★★ **12.45 FILM: Zulu** (1964) With Michael Caine. (T) ★★★

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## Late View

**6.00 Breakfast** (C) **9.00 FILM: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement** (2004) Family comedy sequel, starring Anne Hathaway and Julie Andrews. (C) ★★ **10.45 FILM: 102 Dalmatians** (2000) Disney family adventure sequel, with Glenn Close and Gerard Depardieu. (C) ★★ **12.20 BBC News;** Weather. (C) **12.35 Regional News;** Weather. (C) **12.45 My Family Christmas** special from 2005. Susan's mother gets herself a toyboy. (C) (R)

## Tomorrow



# Festive Puzzles Extra

## Word Wise

The following words may sound familiar, but do you know what each means?

### 1. GRAVEN

- A. Carved
- B. Rounded stones
- C. Coward

### 2. FISTULA

- A. Bone in the arm
- B. Ruzzle
- C. Narrow duct

### 3. FISSILE

- A. Readily split
- B. Dark passage
- C. State treasury

### 4. DIVEST

- A. List of contents
- B. Break up
- C. Deprive of

### 5. COLIBRI

- A. Italian dish
- B. Hummingbird
- C. Naughty child

### 6. CHANTERELLE

- A. Type of mushroom
- B. Large bell
- C. Bell-ringer

## Four W's

**1 WHO** wrote the novel Mr Midshipman Easy?  
**WHAT** sort of creature is Sciurus vulgaris?  
**WHERE** in Africa is the city of Oran?  
**WHEN** was the actress Julie Walters born?

**2 WHO** won golf's Mercedes Championships for the third consecutive time in January 2006?  
**WHAT** is the country that lies due east of Laos?  
**WHERE** is the Prime Meridian located?  
**WHEN** did Catherine of Aragon marry Henry VIII of England?

**3 WHO** is the Republic of Ireland's current manager?  
**WHAT** is the novel by Charles Dickens that features the character Noah Claypole?  
**WHERE** in Europe are the towns of Ventpils and Valmiera?  
**WHEN** was the former US Vice President Dan Quayle born?

**4 WHO** wrote the television drama Boys From The Blackstuff?  
**WHAT** is the state capital of Indiana in America?  
**WHERE** is the state capital of Indiana, US?  
**WHEN** is the state capital of Indiana, US?

**5 WHO** starred as the fictional artist Bradley Monahan in Michael Powell's film Age Of Consent?  
**WHAT** was the approximate percentage of white people in the US according to the 2000 census - 65, 75, 85 or 95?  
**WHERE** were the 1968 summer Olympic Games held?  
**WHEN** was the actor Roger Moore born?

## Who am I?

**one** An actress, I was born in Minnesota in 1982. I starred in the US TV series 7th Heaven, and dated fellow actor Chris Evans for five years. My films include Elizabethtown and The Illusionist.

**two** A painter, I was born in Normandy in 1877. After experimenting with post-impressionism and cubism, I became known as a Fauvist and developed the style known as stenographic. My works include Hommage à Mozart and Regatta at Cowes.

**three** An actor, I was born in Hong Kong in 1954. During my early acting career I was known as Chen Yueng Lung. I am well-known for my kung fu and action films, and star in Shanghai Knights and Rush Hour.

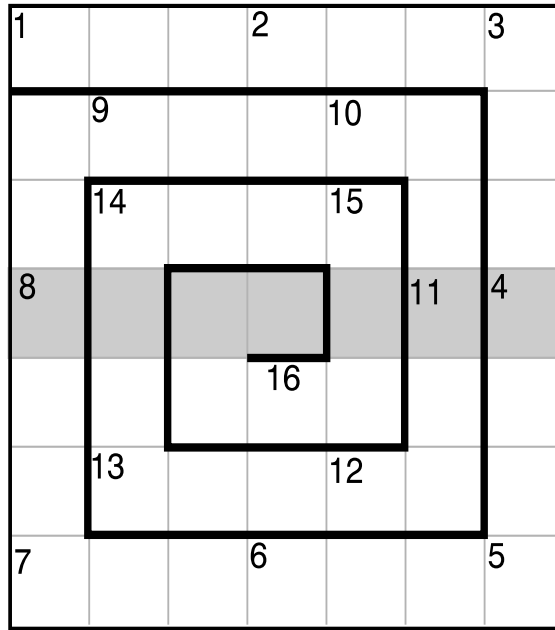
**four** A singer, I was born in Texas in 1984. My debut album was entitled Autobiography and my biggest hit in the UK was Pieces Of Me in 2004. My older sister Jessica is also a well-known singer.

**five** A comedian and TV presenter, I was born in Middlesex in 1959. I started my career as The Joan Collins Fanclub accompanied by my dog Fanny. I finished third in the second series of Strictly Come Dancing.

**six** An author, I was born in Dublin in 1981. My father is a prominent politician and my sister is married to a member of Westlife. My debut novel, PS, I Love You, reached Number One in the best-sellers list when I was just 21 years old.

## Word Spirals

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word. If you have correctly filled in the grid there should be a seven-letter key word reading across from 8.



### WORDSPIRAL 1

1. Asks for food or money 2. Auction 3. Exposition, in short 4. Pig sound 5. Ship's structural element 6. Young sheep 7. Greek letter 8. Land measure 9. Always 10. Hurry 11. Group of cattle 12. Prima donna 13. Ventilates 14. Shock 15. Arrests 16. Snack

Key word clue: Native American

### WORDSPIRAL 2

1. Explosive device 2. To polish 3. Having a level surface 4. Rip a hole in 5. Genuine 6. Cooking fat 7. Deposit as rubbish 8. Pool of still water 9. Expensive 10. Shabby clothing 11. Lather 12. Snow runners 13. Black marketer 14. Look at 15. Volition 16. Lacking fat

Key word clue: Musician type

### WORDSPIRAL 3

1. Vessel for cut flowers 2. Compass point 3. Team trip 4. Space 5. Masculine 6. Water jug 7. Ridge of coral 8. Tuna, say 9. Vestibule 10. Long steady stride 11. Heroic 12. Onboard personnel 13. Small forest 14. Perishes 15. Eyelid swelling 16. Make mistakes

Key word clue: Surname

### WORDSPIRAL 4

1. Slay 2. Whip 3. Hawaiian dance 4. Very keen 5. Deceased 6. Ring a phone number 7. Molten volcanic rock 8. So be it! 9. Inert gas 10. Hitlerite 11. Wading bird 12. Cold weather 13. Hospital room 14. Floor of a ship 15. Tangle 16. Large weighty book

Key word clue: Foreign country

### WORDSPIRAL 5

1. Broth 2. Quick or furtive look 3. Paratrooper, informally 4. Dull pain 5. Dutch cheese 6. Sail support 7. Therefore 8. Goal attempt 9. Horse's gait 10. Body powder 11. Snooker rods 12. Foamy waves 13. Imperfection 14. Unwelcome plant 15. Cloudy 16. Arm or leg

Key word clue: Type of liqueur

## Remember When

The following events all occurred in a year in living memory. Can you guess the year?

**1** 1 Buster Keaton died  
2 George Harrison married Pattie Boyd  
3 The Moors murderers were imprisoned for life  
4 South African PM Hendrik Verwoerd was assassinated



**2** 1 Shirley Heights won the Derby  
2 Princess Margaret sought a divorce from the Earl of Snowdon  
3 Former Italian premier Aldo Moro was murdered  
4 Argentina won football's World Cup



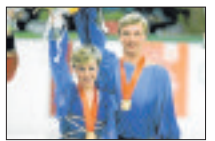
**3** 1 Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden married the Prime Minister's niece, Clarissa  
2 The winter Olympics took place in Oslo  
3 Oxford won the Boat Race in a blizzard  
4 Israel's first President Chaim Weizmann died



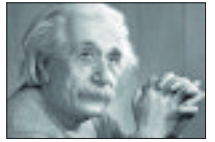
**4** 1 Glasgow Rangers won the Cup Winners' Cup  
2 118 people died in a crash at Heathrow Airport  
3 US President Richard Nixon was re-elected  
4 Juan Peron returned to Argentina after his exile



**5** 1 Sir John Betjeman died  
2 Torvill and Dean won Olympic gold in ice dancing  
3 WPC Yvonne Fletcher was shot dead outside the Libyan Embassy  
4 Jockey John Francombe rode his 1,000th winner



**6** 1 Soviet Premier Georgi Malenkov resigned  
2 Albert Einstein died  
3 Donald Campbell set a new world water-speed record of 202.32mph  
4 Vladimir Nabokov's novel Lolita is published



## Sudoku

		4				1		
	1	8	7		9		6	
9			3	1				8
	4	1			3			
	6	9		2		7	5	
						2	4	
		3		6	5			7
	8		4	7		9		
		6			3			4

**SOLUTIONS WordWise** 1-A: 2-C: 3-A: 4-C: 5-B: 6-A: 7-B: 8-A: 9-C: 10-A: 11-B: 12-C: 13-A: 14-B: 15-C: 16-A: 17-B: 18-C: 19-A: 20-B: 21-C: 22-A: 23-B: 24-C: 25-A: 26-B: 27-C: 28-A: 29-B: 30-C: 31-A: 32-B: 33-C: 34-A: 35-B: 36-C: 37-A: 38-B: 39-C: 40-A: 41-B: 42-C: 43-A: 44-B: 45-C: 46-A: 47-B: 48-C: 49-A: 50-B: 51-C: 52-A: 53-B: 54-C: 55-A: 56-B: 57-C: 58-A: 59-B: 60-C: 61-A: 62-B: 63-C: 64-A: 65-B: 66-C: 67-A: 68-B: 69-C: 70-A: 71-B: 72-C: 73-A: 74-B: 75-C: 76-A: 77-B: 78-C: 79-A: 80-B: 81-C: 82-A: 83-B: 84-C: 85-A: 86-B: 87-C: 88-A: 89-B: 90-C: 91-A: 92-B: 93-C: 94-A: 95-B: 96-C: 97-A: 98-B: 99-C: 100-A: 101-B: 102-C: 103-A: 104-B: 105-C: 106-A: 107-B: 108-C: 109-A: 110-B: 111-C: 112-A: 113-B: 114-C: 115-A: 116-B: 117-C: 118-A: 119-B: 120-C: 121-A: 122-B: 123-C: 124-A: 125-B: 126-C: 127-A: 128-B: 129-C: 130-A: 131-B: 132-C: 133-A: 134-B: 135-C: 136-A: 137-B: 138-C: 139-A: 140-B: 141-C: 142-A: 143-B: 144-C: 145-A: 146-B: 147-C: 148-A: 149-B: 150-C: 151-A: 152-B: 153-C: 154-A: 155-B: 156-C: 157-A: 158-B: 159-C: 160-A: 161-B: 162-C: 163-A: 164-B: 165-C: 166-A: 167-B: 168-C: 169-A: 170-B: 171-C: 172-A: 173-B: 174-C: 175-A: 176-B: 177-C: 178-A: 179-B: 180-C: 181-A: 182-B: 183-C: 184-A: 185-B: 186-C: 187-A: 188-B: 189-C: 190-A: 191-B: 192-C: 193-A: 194-B: 195-C: 196-A: 197-B: 198-C: 199-A: 200-B: 201-C: 202-A: 203-B: 204-C: 205-A: 206-B: 207-C: 208-A: 209-B: 210-C: 211-A: 212-B: 213-C: 214-A: 215-B: 216-C: 217-A: 218-B: 219-C: 220-A: 221-B: 222-C: 223-A: 224-B: 225-C: 226-A: 227-B: 228-C: 229-A: 230-B: 231-C: 232-A: 233-B: 234-C: 235-A: 236-B: 237-C: 238-A: 239-B: 240-C: 241-A: 242-B: 243-C: 244-A: 245-B: 246-C: 247-A: 248-B: 249-C: 250-A: 251-B: 252-C: 253-A: 254-B: 255-C: 256-A: 257-B: 258-C: 259-A: 260-B: 261-C: 262-A: 263-B: 264-C: 265-A: 266-B: 267-C: 268-A: 269-B: 270-C: 271-A: 272-B: 273-C: 274-A: 275-B: 276-C: 277-A: 278-B: 279-C: 280-A: 281-B: 282-C: 283-A: 284-B: 285-C: 286-A: 287-B: 288-C: 289-A: 290-B: 291-C: 292-A: 293-B: 294-C: 295-A: 296-B: 297-C: 298-A: 299-B: 300-C: 301-A: 302-B: 303-C: 304-A: 305-B: 306-C: 307-A: 308-B: 309-C: 310-A: 311-B: 312-C: 313-A: 314-B: 315-C: 316-A: 317-B: 318-C: 319-A: 320-B: 321-C: 322-A: 323-B: 324-C: 325-A: 326-B: 327-C: 328-A: 329-B: 330-C: 331-A: 332-B: 333-C: 334-A: 335-B: 336-C: 337-A: 338-B: 339-C: 340-A: 341-B: 342-C: 343-A: 344-B: 345-C: 346-A: 347-B: 348-C: 349-A: 350-B: 351-C: 352-A: 353-B: 354-C: 355-A: 356-B: 357-C: 358-A: 359-B: 360-C: 361-A: 362-B: 363-C: 364-A: 365-B: 366-C: 367-A: 368-B: 369-C: 370-A: 371-B: 372-C: 373-A: 374-B: 375-C: 376-A: 377-B: 378-C: 379-A: 380-B: 381-C: 382-A: 383-B: 384-C: 385-A: 386-B: 387-C: 388-A: 389-B: 390-C: 391-A: 392-B: 393-C: 394-A: 395-B: 396-C: 397-A: 398-B: 399-C: 400-A: 401-B: 402-C: 403-A: 404-B: 405-C: 406-A: 407-B: 408-C: 409-A: 410-B: 411-C: 412-A: 413-B: 414-C: 415-A: 416-B: 417-C: 418-A: 419-B: 420-C: 421-A: 422-B: 423-C: 424-A: 425-B: 426-C: 427-A: 428-B: 429-C: 430-A: 431-B: 432-C: 433-A: 434-B: 435-C: 436-A: 437-B: 438-C: 439-A: 440-B: 441-C: 442-A: 443-B: 444-C: 445-A: 446-B: 447-C: 448-A: 449-B: 450-C: 451-A: 452-B: 453-C: 454-A: 455-B: 456-C: 457-A: 458-B: 459-C: 460-A: 461-B: 462-C: 463-A: 464-B: 465-C: 466-A: 467-B: 468-C: 469-A: 470-B: 471-C: 472-A: 473-B: 474-C: 475-A: 476-B: 477-C: 478-A: 479-B: 480-C: 481-A: 482-B: 483-C: 484-A: 485-B: 486-C: 487-A: 488-B: 489-C: 490-A: 491-B: 492-C: 493-A: 494-B: 495-C: 496-A: 497-B: 498-C: 499-A: 500-B: 501-C: 502-A: 503-B: 504-C: 505-A: 506-B: 507-C: 508-A: 509-B: 510-C: 511-A: 512-B: 513-C: 514-A: 515-B: 516-C: 517-A: 518-B: 519-C: 520-A: 521-B: 522-C: 523-A: 524-B: 525-C: 526-A: 527-B: 528-C: 529-A: 530-B: 531-C: 532-A: 533-B: 534-C: 535-A: 536-B: 537-C: 538-A: 539-B: 540-C: 541-A: 542-B: 543-C: 544-A: 545-B: 546-C: 547-A: 548-B: 549-C: 550-A: 551-B: 552-C: 553-A: 554-B: 555-C: 556-A: 557-B: 558-C: 559-A: 560-B: 561-C: 562-A: 563-B: 564-C: 565-A: 566-B: 567-C: 568-A: 569-B: 570-C: 571-A: 572-B: 573-C: 574-A: 575-B: 576-C: 577-A: 578-B: 579-C: 580-A: 581-B: 582-C: 583-A: 584-B: 585-C: 586-A: 587-B: 588-C: 589-A: 590-B: 591-C: 592-A: 593-B: 594-C: 595-A: 596-B: 597-C: 598-A: 599-B: 600-C: 601-A: 602-B: 603-C: 604-A: 605-B: 606-C: 607-A: 608-B: 609-C: 610-A: 611-B: 612-C: 613-A: 614-B: 615-C: 616-A: 617-B: 618-C: 619-A: 620-B: 621-C: 622-A: 623-B: 624-C: 625-A: 626-B: 627-C: 628-A: 629-B: 630-C: 631-A: 632-B: 633-C: 634-A: 635-B: 636-C: 637-A: 638-B: 639-C: 640-A: 641-B: 642-C: 643-A: 644-B: 645-C: 646-A: 647-B: 648-C: 649-A: 650-B: 651-C: 652-A: 653-B: 654-C: 655-A: 656-B: 657-C: 658-A: 659-B: 660-C: 661-A: 662-B: 663-C: 664-A: 665-B: 666-C: 667-A: 668-B: 669-C: 670-A: 671-B: 672-C: 673-A: 674-B: 675-C: 676-A: 677-B: 678-C: 679-A: 680-B: 681-C: 682-A: 683-B: 684-C: 685-A: 686-B: 687-C: 688-A: 689-B: 690-C: 691-A: 692-B: 693-C: 694-A: 695-B: 696-C: 697-A: 698-B: 699-C: 700-A: 701-B: 702-C: 703-A: 704-B: 705-C: 706-A: 707-B: 708-C: 709-A: 710-B: 711-C: 712-A: 713-B: 714-C: 715-A: 716-B: 717-C: 718-A: 719-B: 720-C: 721-A: 722-B: 723-C: 724-A: 725-B: 726-C: 727-A: 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1137-C: 1138-A: 1139-B: 1140-C: 1141-A: 1142-B: 1143-C: 1144-A: 1145-B: 1146-C: 1147-A: 1148-B: 1149-C: 1150-A: 1151-B: 1152-C: 1153-A: 1154-B: 1155-C: 1156-A: 1157-B: 1158-C: 1159-A: 1160-B: 1161-C: 1162-A: 1163-B: 1164-C: 1165-A: 1166-B: 1167-C: 1168-A: 1169-B: 1170-C: 1171-A: 1172-B: 1173-C: 1174-A: 1175-B: 1176-C: 1177-A: 1178-B: 1179-C: 1180-A: 1181-B: 1182-C: 1183-A: 1184-B: 1185-C: 1186-A: 1187-B: 1188-C: 1189-A: 1190-B: 1191-C: 1192-A: 1193-B: 1194-C: 1195-A: 1196-B: 1197-C: 1198-A: 1199-B: 1200-C: 1201-A: 1202-B: 1203-C: 1204-A: 1205-B: 1206-C: 1207-A: 1208-B: 1209-C: 1210-A: 1211-B: 1212-C: 1213-A: 1214-B: 1215-C: 1216-A: 1217-B: 1218-C: 1219-A: 1220-B: 1221-C: 1222-A: 1223-B: 1224-C: 1225-A: 1226-B: 1227-C: 1228-A: 1229-B: 1230-C: 1231-A: 1232-B: 1233-C: 1234-A: 1235-B: 1236-C: 1237-A: 1238-B: 1239-C: 1240-A: 1241-B: 1242-C: 1243-A: 1244-B: 1245-C: 1246-A: 1247-B: 1248-C: 124



# Local Tradesmen



## TIPS OF THE WEEK

### Crystal Plumbing and Fencing

About a year ago, Crystal Plumbing & Fencing Services formed as a way of bringing together the combined 18 years experience in the plumbing and carpentry trades of the partners involved. This meant that all their skills would be used to form a property maintenance firm, where customers would have one name to call for their every requirement.

Their Plumbing services include:

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All customers new and existing, can feel confident in knowing that they are getting a professional and friendly service, and will be dealing directly with the owners, from start to finish.

If you would like to know more about Crystal Plumbing & Fencing Services, you can visit their website [www.crystalplumbingfencing.co.uk](http://www.crystalplumbingfencing.co.uk).

Alternatively call 01952 279810 or

Loz for Plumbing on 07722691402

Tim for Fencing on 07855 618431

Top Tip is: Always make sure you use a fully insured company like us, otherwise any damages could end up being costly.

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07779 642423

Email: [rob@bridgnorthchimneysweep.co.uk](mailto:rob@bridgnorthchimneysweep.co.uk)  
Web: [www.bridgnorthchimneysweep.co.uk](http://www.bridgnorthchimneysweep.co.uk)

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## LONDON THEATRE

**Choose your show, price band\* and how you want to travel**

### Coach inclusive breaks

Selected weekend departures

**FROM £129.95 (Saturday Night)**

**FROM £139.95 (Dine and Dance)**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

### Rail inclusive breaks

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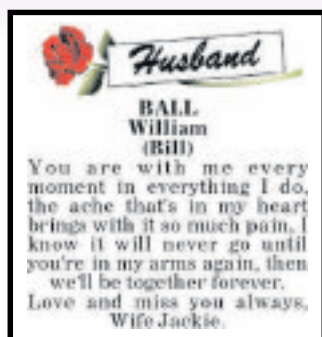
Of Holy Cross Residential  
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aged 72 years, formerly of  
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Brother of Jan.

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## NEWS

# Wind turbines get the green light

CONTROVERSIAL plans to create two large wind turbines in the Shropshire countryside have been approved by councillors, despite opposition from local residents.

The turbines will be built at Oaklands Farm in Bagley, near Ellesmere and at The Firs in Ruyton-XI-Towns, near Shrewsbury. Both projects were approved by a meeting of Shropshire Council's north planning committee.

The 60kW turbine at Bagley will be installed on agricultural land and should produce 175,000kW a year.

Members of Hordley Parish Council had objected to the scheme, claiming it would be too close to nearby homes. Residents had also raised concerns.

Meanwhile, the 50kW turbine in Ruyton XI Towns, which will be 46 metres tall, will be used to supply electricity to the applicant's farm. Residents had raised concerns about noise and potential impact on their health.

The schemes had both been recommended for approval by planning officers ahead of yesterday's meeting at Edinburgh House in Wem.

Speaking about the application for Bagley, Councillor Joyce Barrow, Shropshire councillor for St Oswald, said: "Noise is the only thing that is concerning me."

"With wind turbines we might not like them but because of planning law we struggle to find reasons to oppose them."

A spokesman on behalf of the applicant said: "Its about farm diversification. The site provides good wind speed. We carried out a local consultation exercise."

# Action taken over underage drinkers

by Graham Breeze

**PATROLS** are being carried out in Oswestry in a bid to try and tackle underage drinking over the Christmas period.

Police and community officers are talking to customers at off-licences and supermarkets to try and stop adults buying alcohol for under 18s.

The joint patrols will be part of a wider project led by Shropshire's Community Alcohol Partnership.

## All welcome to step out for walkers' next outing

RAMBLERS in Oswestry are inviting people to join a five-mile moderate walk from Llanfyllin today, Thursday.

Walkers are asked to meet at Lloyd Street car park at 10am.

There will not be a walk on Sunday, December 23. On December 13 the Oswestry branch had its Christmas walk and lunch.

There was a four mile route from the Sun Inn at Trevor which went up a lane to join a path which took them to Offa's Dyke towards the Panorama.

Walkers then descended through woodland and across the main Ruabon to Llangollen road before returning to the start via the canal towpath.

Some non-walkers joined the party at the Sun Inn where lunch was served for 40 members.

On December 16 a party of 16 walkers from Meifod Community Centre car park took part in a five-and-a-half-mile walk around Bronnarth Hill and Llyn Du.

Crossing the River Vyrnwy their route took them up through woodland.

After coffee they made their way via lanes and paths to join Glyndwr's Way. The party stopped for lunch before returning to Meifod via a lane.

This is a multi-agency partnership set up to reduce the problems caused by under-age drinking.

The project has received £90,000 funding from Baroness Newlove, the Government's champion for active, safer communities.

Many businesses are working closely with Shropshire Council's trading standards and West Mercia Police to stop children getting hold of alcohol.

Shrop-CAP includes representatives of Shropshire's drug and alcohol action team, the police and Shropshire Council's positive activities and trading standards teams.

## Think

Steve Charmley, chairman of Shrop-CAP said: "Adults buying alcohol for under-18s is an ongoing problem."

"With youngsters finding it increasingly difficult to buy alcohol themselves as shops tighten their procedures, they are turning to adults to buy alcohol."

"People really need to think twice before buying alcohol for young people. Not only do their actions pose potential dangers for the young person, but also to the wider public as most anti-social behaviour which blights our communities is alcohol-related."

Chief Inspector Sarah Wagstaff of West Mercia Police said supplying alcohol to those underage is a criminal offence carrying a potential £5,000 fine.

She said: "Those buying alcohol for under-18s are not only breaking the law and risking a criminal record but more importantly are putting the health and safety of young people at risk."

## Rotarians' prizes



Oswestry's Borderland Rotary Club was presented with two trophies by district governor Roger Heath, of the Liverpool Garston Club recently.

ROTARIANS in Oswestry who helped a woman with cerebral palsy redecorate her home have won an award.

The Borderland Rotary Club was presented with two trophies when District Governor Roger Heath, from the Liverpool Garston Club, arrived at their recent meeting.

Mr Heath presented the Llangollen Community Trophy for best Community Project to the group.

The club had teamed up with the Oystereers charity to redecorate a flat for a 21 year old who was moving out of Meadowbrook Care Home, in Gobowen, into independent living into her own flat.

## Trophy

The district governor also presented the Maurice Harrup Trophy, which was awarded to the club for the best website.

Its website was said to be 'very informative and a showcase for the Borderland club'.

Rotarians said there were more people looking at the site month on month.

The website is found at [www.borderlandrotary.co.uk](http://www.borderlandrotary.co.uk)

Mr Heath said: "Borderland is to be congratulated for being a very active and thriving club and the only club in the district to win two trophies."

Borderland Rotary meets on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Sweeney Hall Hotel.

For more information about the Borderland Rotary Club visit [www.borderlandrotary.co.uk](http://www.borderlandrotary.co.uk)

# Have your say on how town should develop

OSWESTRY residents are being urged to have a say on how their town should develop in the future.

Consultation is being carried out by the Oswestry 2020 partnership, which is working together to develop the new community-led plan for the town.

The group will create a 'blueprint' which will help determine local priorities for new investment over the coming years.

A steering group of volunteers and community organisations has been working with Oswestry Town Council,

Shropshire Council and local consultants to identify the key issues facing the town.

Members of the team have attended several events in the town already, including Oswestry Live and the switching on of the town's festive lights, to gather opinions.

People can also make their feeling known by going online to visit the Oswestry 2020 website at [www.oswestry2020.co.uk](http://www.oswestry2020.co.uk) and following the link to the appropriate web-based survey.

# Full steam ahead for vintage rally

PLANS are being made for a major summer vintage vehicle rally which is expected to attract enthusiasts from around the country.

Next year's Clwyd Veteran and Vintage Machinery Society's show will be held at Park Hall Showground near Oswestry on the weekend of June 15 and 16.

Gates will open at 10am both days and weekend camping is available for visitors.

A host of exhibits have been lined up including steam and miniature engines, vintage tractors, horticultural and garden machinery, commercial vehicles, and classic camper vans.



## NEWS

01691 668094

## Students enjoy a visit to police HQ

THE LIFE of a working police officer came under the spotlight as Shropshire students visited the force headquarters.

Public services students from Walford and North Shropshire College went to West Mercia Police's headquarters at Hindlip Hall near Worcester.

They visited the dog section, where police and their canine partners gave a demonstration and they also went to the firearms school to learn about training methods for armed officers.

Students also enjoyed a whistle-stop tour of the forensics department where they watched fingerprint experts and laboratory staff at work, examining prints and other marks recovered from crime scenes.

The force control room also featured and the group saw how thousands of public calls for assistance are handled day in day out.

Tom McCudden, 19 from Four Crosses, said: "It was very educational and gave us an insight into what the police do."

Leah Rastall, 17, from Oswestry, said, "The dog section really opened my eyes to how much training they have to go through."

Course lecturer, Steve Hunter, said: "A day like this really does help the students to link the reality to the theory."

# Games group given cash boost by Charlotte's fund

A FOUNDATION set up in memory of a Shropshire schoolgirl is helping to ensure other youngsters in the county can have a fun Christmas.

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation has given a grant of £175 towards Games – a programme of Christmas-related activities for children.

The games, organised by Shropshire Council, take place this year at the sports hall at St Martins School near Oswestry.

The fun kicked off on Tuesday and included a variety of games, crafts and other activities for children aged four to 13 years.

There was also an opportunity for each child to visit Santa for a pre-Christmas gift.

### Delighted

Paul Seagar, from the Charlotte Hartey Foundation, said the group was delighted to be able to help the Grotto Games after being approached by Shropshire Council. The foundation gave a grant of £175.

The foundation was set up in memory of 16-year-old Brongarth girl Charlotte Hartey.

She died in July 2009 after complications arising from being misdiagnosed

by doctors as having swine flu.

Council chiefs have thanked foundation bosses for the financial support and said this year's Grotto Games would build on the success of last year's event.

Deana Pennington, from Shropshire Council's leisure services department, said: "The popular annual event aims to get the community together to enjoy a host of activities, whilst raising the awareness of how play is an important building block in a child's healthy and active lifestyle."

The Charlotte Hartey Foundation has also helped support young Telford cricketer Jeska Ward.

The group said it had given a grant of £400 to the sports stars who has played cricket for Wales for two years, and has been selected as part of their squad to go to Dubai in February 2013 for a competition.

The cash gift will help towards the cost of the trip.

## All ears as students pick up radio tips

FOUR lucky students from The Marches School in Oswestry recently had the opportunity to visit a nationally recognised radio station and meet real-life presenters, to help enhance and develop their own ideas for creating an in-house, student led radio show at the school.

Year 8 students Amy Rowley, Mia Forbes, Gabriella Edwards and Katie Davies presented their ambitious ideas to headteacher Sarah Longville.

Ms Longville said: "These four girls are clearly passionate about radio and I think it is wonderful that, in their own time, they are so keen to create something that will really enhance the school community. I cannot wait to see their ideas for this project unfold."

To help develop their ideas and knowledge of the radio industry, a trip was arranged to visit the Heart FM studio in Wrexham and meet with Drive Time presenter Richard Straffon. Following a full tour of the studio, students enjoyed spending an hour with Mr Straffon, asking questions about his career in radio and gathering useful information that will help them when planning their own school radio show.

The students will now be using the information and knowledge gained from the trip to further develop their plans to host a weekly radio show at The Marches School. Watch this space....



Students from Marches School get valuable industry experience from Drive Time presenter Richard Straffon, from left, Gabriella Edwards, Mia Forbes, Katie Davies and Amy Rowley.

## Helpers needed to restore rail line

A CALL has gone out for more volunteers to help create a new tourist attraction near Oswestry.

The Glyn Valley Tramway Trust is working to restore the former rail line that until 1935 ran from Chirk to Glyn Ceiriog.

The first phase of the project, to restore the line from Pontfaen to Chirk, has already won planning permission.

Members of the trust behind the plans say the project will bring a vital cash boost to the area and tie in with the nearby Llangollen Canal which has been awarded World Heritage Status.

The plan will also include a new station at Pontfaen and will see additional car parking provided next to Chirk's Cadbury's factory.

The trust's volunteer liaison officer Will Appleton said he is creating lists of volunteers who will be willing to work on the line and will also be putting together a list of other jobs which need to be completed.

Mr Appleton said: "This will include present work parties and later volunteers to help with the future construction and hopefully the running of the tramway."

"This will range from station staff and hospitality to track maintenance to gardening and general maintenance."

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## FEATURES &amp; NEWS

01691 668094

## Book has a global audience at forum

A BOOK written by a Shropshire-based management writer is now being read in more than 40 countries following its distribution at a recent global conference in Austria.

Dr Peter Starbuck from Oswestry, one of the world's leading authorities on management guru Peter Drucker, was asked to mark the formation of the Drucker Society London – of which he is chairman – with a commemorative limited edition of his most celebrated work.

Dr Starbuck was invited to produce 300 special copies of the book – Peter F. Drucker: The Landmarks of his Ideas – to hand out to delegates at the Global Peter Drucker Forum 2012 in Vienna.

Dr Starbuck said: "The conference was a great success, and the book was very well received."

Keynote speakers at the Drucker Forum included Paul Polman, CEO at Unilever and Nobel Laureate Dan Shechtman.

## Carols for seniors

OSWESTRY Senior Citizens' Club carol service will be held tonight (Thursday) with carols from 6pm. The club's last bingo session of the year was held on Wednesday. Meetings will resume on January 4.

## Elusive otters are better than man at dealing with minks

OVER the last 12 months, you, dear reader, and I, have explored some of the wildlife and habitats that this part of North Shropshire offers.

I for one am constantly amazed at the variety of animals and plants to be found here and yet there is one quintessential animal I have paid only a short visit to.

I'd like to return to it now, not because it is a personal favourite (although it certainly is that) or because it's a creature we are all familiar with seeing (on the contrary, it's highly secretive and elusive); but instead because a single member of its species will exploit a vast array of habitats here in this part of the county and the nostalgia it sparks, is a welcome warmth at this time of the year!

Picture the scene if you will. I'm enjoying a quiet morning by a secluded lake-side.

## Trance

Then a sound breaks the silence. It is not a shattering demolition of things, more akin to being in a contented trance and coming to slowly, with the insistent yet placid calling of one's name.

Whatever it is it hails from the far end of the water.

Then it is upon this peaceful pool. Birds fly from their perches, a pheasant runs for cover. From the depths of the adjoining wood, the hounds come, their baying utterances spurred on by crazed excitement, bloodlust and the hollerings of their masters yonder.

Six dogs splashing, dashing, panting, homing in on something thus far unseen.

This way and that they dart, as if drawn

ON THE  
WILD SIDE  
with  
Ben Waddams



forward by invisible means, or agitated by whips and floggings from behind. Their black and tan hair snagged by water and sweat, mud and blood.

Periodically their attention wanes. Not from the hunt or the hope of a kill; far from it. But this is a battle of the senses.

Ears are caked in sludge, filled with water and what room is left for sound, comes from the other pack members.

Their nasal openings suffer the same deluge of filth and muck and scent is lost amongst splash and ripple, eddy and surge.

Only their eyes keep them in the game. Their quarry is sighted ahead and they throw themselves into the chase yet again.

Well I must say, standing there on the margins, this all came as something of a shock to me!

My mind was cast back to childhood memories of Tarka the Otter – surely this was not an otter hunt. And yet there were the dogs, otterhounds? Possibly.

And there were the men with sticks, wading after them. And there was the 'huntsman' blowing his horn. I decided to skirt the lake and get closer to the din.

As I passed a fishing platform, I looked over at it. An otter slid into the water and was gone.

After a bit of squelching through deep mud, I approached a member of the hunt and asked what exactly was going on. 'Mink' he replied.



My mind was cast back to childhood memories of Tarka the Otter.

That put me into more of a quandary. I realise mink are a devastation on our wildlife, but surely there are better ways of controlling them then by making such a song and dance about things?

It is an offence to disturb the habitat of an otter and yet this method of mink hunting is certainly doing that.

However otters typically have a home range which includes a lake, a river or canal, fields and woodland. The problem is; mink have similar needs.

The answer was actually staring us both

in the face, although I was the only one who had seen it that morning.

Otters are a natural control on mink numbers. If you want a healthy ecosystem with no alien invaders and a diverse array of wildlife, all you need do is revert the land back to ancient times. Natural history it seems, is rather keen on its own sense of nostalgia.

Many thanks to all whom have commented on or bought my artwork this year. A few last pieces are available at The Willow gallery, Oswestry.

## Rotarian group is handed an award

ROTARIANS in Oswestry who helped a woman with cerebral palsy redecorate her home have won an award.

The Borderland Rotary Club was presented with two trophies when the club's district governor, Roger Heath, from the Liverpool Garston Club, arrived at their last meeting.

Mr Heath presented the Llangollen Community Trophy for best community project to the group.

This was because they had teamed up with the Oseyteers charity to redecorate a flat for a 21-year-old who was moving out of Meadowbrook Care Home, in Gobowen, into her own flat.

The district governor also presented the Maurice Harpur Trophy for the best website to the club. Its site was said to be 'very informative and a showcase for the Borderland club'.

Rotarians said there were more people looking at the site, at [www.borderlandrotary.co.uk](http://www.borderlandrotary.co.uk), month on month.

Mr Heath said: "Borderland is to be congratulated for being a very active and thriving club and the only club in the district to win two trophies."

Borderland Rotary meets on a Wednesday evening at 7.30pm at the Sweeney Hall Hotel. More information is on the website.

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## NOSTALGIA &amp; NEWS

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# The little shop that became a big fish in the world of retail

## Web quiz launched to reduce 999 calls

AN online quiz has been launched in a bid to reduce the number of people ringing 999 or visiting accident and emergency departments in Mid Wales for minor injuries or coughs and colds.

The Welsh Ambulance Service and NHS Direct Wales said it hoped the new Choose Well quiz would help people 'choose well' when it comes to care this winter.

The two groups say evidence reveals that a significant number of people dial 999 for an ambulance or go to A&E departments despite there being other more suitable services available.

Choose Well centres on a colour coded thermometer to assist people in linking their symptoms or injury to the right service.

The online quiz asks browsers what level of the thermometer they would choose for five illness or injury scenarios on screen.

Leanne Hawker, partner in healthcare lead for NHS Direct Wales, said: "Every day the ambulance service receives a number of 999 calls for minor illnesses such as coughs, toothache or sore throats. These calls can divert our resources away from the patients that need us the most - those facing a cardiac arrest, severe blood loss, or a stroke."

Log on to [www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/DontYourself/f](http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk/DontYourself/f) to take the test.



Our old photo showing Faulks butchers in Oswestry.

**WHAT'S** the link between this old photo showing J. Faulks and Sons general butchers in Oswestry years ago and Stans Superstore in St Martins?

Peter Faulks - there's a big clue in the name - got in touch to fill us in with the connection after we published the old photo a few weeks ago.

"We have Stans Superstore in St Martins. My father was Stan - and his father

**by Toby Neal**

was the Faulks in the picture with the general butchers," he said.

"So the Faulks in the picture is my grandfather, James Faulks.

"Stan was one of his sons, and there was another brother, Alf, who was killed in the war. There were a couple of other brothers and a sister."

Stan was never in the butcher's business himself. He was an apprentice gas

fitter before going to war. He returned from the conflict shattered by his experiences in a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp.

"In 1947 he was still suffering from the after effects of the war. My dad's sister Edie was married to Jack Brown and he had a fish and chip shop in Oswestry. He was offered a fish and chip shop in St Martins and took my dad along because he was still suffering from the after effects of the war, and had had a nervous

breakdown, and he said 'we need to get you back into work.'

"He started him off in this fish and chip shop in St Martins."

### Started

Jack worked with Stan for a few days and then left him to get on with it.

"That's how Stans Superstore in St Martins started.

"My dad ran this fish and chip shop with my mum for three or four years. There was a little shop next to that fish

and chip shop and my dad eventually bought the shop and for a time ran the fish and chip shop and the little shop. Eventually he closed the fish and chip shop and the other shop became Stans Superstore."

The store expanded over the years but is still on the same site.

In time, Peter and his brother Robert took over from their mum and dad. "Now our kids have taken over from us - it's the third generation."



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## THE ARTS

# Artists create giftware in new designs project

by Graham Breeze

A GROUP of artists in Oswestry have teamed up with a national design project to create a new range of giftware.

The Project Group, an award-winning social enterprise that helps people with mental health issues, has created a range of silk scarves, mugs, greeting cards and coasters, based on the themes of water, fire, stone and earth.

### Workshops

Designs in Mind saw members of the Project Group come up with patterns during workshops with designer Ella Doran as part of a national project encouraging British manufacturers and retailers to commission British designs.

Spokeswoman Jo Dodd said: "Ideas were developed over the weeks to produce some designs for products."

"Once the designs were chosen they were sent away to be manufactured."

"For our first venture we decided to concentrate on a limited range, silk scarves, mugs and coasters, and greetings cards."

The Project Group works with adults who are in contact with mental health services.

It received the Queen's award for Voluntary Services in 2011.

The Designs in Mind range was launched with the help of portrait artist Peter Edwards whose son, Robin, volunteered with the group over the summer.



With a selection of the range on sale is project co-ordinator Jo Davis.

## Come & See Santa Claus!



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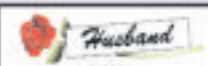
Of Hely Cross Residential Home, on September 7, 2011, aged 92 years, formerly of Sunnyfields, Bell Lane, Shrewsbury.

Born of Jan.

Service at Shrewsbury Crematorium on Friday, September 23, 2011, at 10.45am.

No flowers by request, donations if wished to SRF Schizophrenia Research Fund, for which purpose a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

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**GIG GUIDE**

01691 668094

# Winning short films screened for charity

**GIG GUIDE**

with Chrissy Symmons



**CHRISTMAS** is coming, the festive lights are twinkling and the music is still flowing in Oswestry, Welshpool and surrounding villages.

Tonight (Thursday) from 8pm there will be a free event in Oswestry's The Ironworks celebrating music and film. Future Shorts will be presented by film-screening company KinoKulture and The People's Vinyl Collective.

It will see five award-winning short films from across the world screened in the venue. During the interludes an eclectic mix of music will be played by the PVC DJs.

The event will help to support a charity fundraising campaign 'Malaria No More UK'.

Tomorrow night (Friday) south Shropshire band Fight the Bear will be playing a gig at The Ironworks from 9pm. It will be joined by Arcade Parade and Like Fires to create a Christmas time gig.

Fight the Bear members grew up in small villages around Bishop's Castle and met as friends at primary school.

In 2004 singer Jonny Keeley, guitarist Jamie Furber, bassist Ben Beddoes and drummer Duncan Burns first started writing music together. Now hundreds of gigs later the group still enjoys performing and will be in



Dai Robs will be performing at the Royal Oak tomorrow night.

Oswestry to entertain music fans. The evening will cost £3 and kicks off at 9pm.

There's a real night of entertainment at The Royal Oak in Welshpool on Mad Friday when Jess Needham, Dai Robs and Olly Jones will be presenting acoustic, live music.

Also tomorrow night one man band Mike Holloway will be performing at Lowfield Inn, in Marton near Welshpool.

He will be bringing his tunes, from ballads to dance floor music, to the venue from 8.30pm.

Mr Holloway has been known to play tunes including Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Animals, Eagles, Crowded House and Dire

Straits. For more information about the venue visit [www.lowfieldinn.com](http://www.lowfieldinn.com) Saturday night is karaoke night in Llanymynech, near Oswestry.

The Cross Keys will be hosting a Christmas Karaoke evening from 9pm. Sunday night at The Ironworks will host Chris Greve who will be playing his music to help ease people into the festive mood.

It will start at 8pm and will include mince pies and mulled wine.

Tuesday is Christmas Day so I send all readers of the gig guide festive greetings and hope you have a great day.

If you would like to see your gig listed in this guide email [csymmons@shropshirestar.co.uk](mailto:csymmons@shropshirestar.co.uk)

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**MARKETS & NEWS**

01691 668094

**Surgeon publishes new back care book**

AN orthopaedic surgeon has used his experiences over 35 years to write a book on spinal disorders for his colleagues.

Spinal Disorders for Beginners has been written by Professor Stephen Eisenstein to help doctors who see patients with back problems in their surgeries.

He launched his book at the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry. Major contributions came from hospital colleagues in radiology, the department for spinal disorders, spinal cord injury and specialities allied to rehabilitation.

Originally from South Africa, Professor Eisenstein had his first consultant appointment in 1975 in Johannesburg, and moved to Oswestry in 1985 as a full time consultant spinal surgeon. He became clinical director for spinal studies and initiated the Oswestry Pain Management Programme in 1987.

Professor Eisenstein, who has retired but is still very active within the hospital, said: "I wrote the book to help GPs with the difficult decisions they have to make when seeing patients with back problems in their surgeries. It is a collection of reference advice and practical tips that I have assembled over my 35 year career."

**Welshpool livestock market****December 17**

OTMS (48)

An entry of 48 over thirty month old cattle sold to average of 120ppkg for the 43 cows, 133ppkg for the bull and 160ppkg and 168ppkg respectively for the steers and heifers. Top price of the day was £11090.16 for a Limousin cow weighing 948kg from L G Lewis The Farm. A British Blue cow from T E Williams & Son Red House achieved £1006.40 and weighing 740kg. Bulls topped at £1403.52 for a Charolais bull weighing 1088kg from H & P M Pickstock Celyn. L G Lewis The Farm receives the Briarwood Products Ltd prize of £25 for the highest price older cow sold on the day. If you require any further information regarding this section please contact the market on 01938 553438 or the Auctioneer Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999.

**FAT CATTLE (0)**

Weekly sale of Fat cattle every Monday to commence at approximately 12.30pm. More Fat Cattle urgently required to meet a very strong demand from potential purchasers. If you have require any advice or wish to sell fat cattle at the market please contact the auctioneer Mr Glandon Lewis on 07774 224999 or the market office on 01938 553438.

**PRIME LAMBS (6090)**

An entry of 6090 Prime lambs, selling to an overall average of 141ppkg.

Super Lights (17.5kg to 25.4kg) (339) to 138ppkg from W I Ellis Talwrn. Average of 129ppkg.

Lights (25.5kg to 32kg) (1152) to 150ppkg from DG & SA Rees & Meibion Castell y Geifr. Others to 140ppkg from D Owen Esgairgyfa. Average of 128ppkg.

Standards (32.1kg to 39kg)

(1670) to 170ppkg from W G Jones Cwmduddgan. Others to 167ppkg from T & B Williams Cilmarw. Average of 135ppkg.

Mediums (39.5kg to 45.5kg) (2049) to 183ppkg from CL & C Watkins Bank Farm. Others to 170ppkg from A P Humphreys Llwynmadoc Hen. Average of 150ppkg.

Heavies (45.1kg to 52kg) (729) to 164ppkg from B L Griffiths Lower Penygelli. Others to 160ppkg from CL & C Watkins Bank Farm. Average of 137ppkg.

Over Weights (Over 52kg) (111) to 139ppkg from D R Owen & Sons. Others to 138ppkg from V Jernman Gwernydd. Average of 125ppkg.

**CULL EWE (2525)**  
An entry of 2525 cull sheep on offer for sale today, sold to average £35.78 for the ewes and £65.49 for the rams. Top price of the day for the ewes was £135 per head from G Davies Lan Farm. Top price for the cull rams was £119 per head from D & S Jones Brynllas Bach. Weekly sale of cull sheep to immediately follow the sale of fat lambs at approximately 12noon.

**STORE LAMBS & STORE EWES**

An entry of 500 store lambs. Mixed and clean lambs achieved a top price of £54.50 from DN & DW Jones Plas Newydd. Tup lambs achieved a top price of £55 from T M Davies Wynnstey Farm. Mixed and tup lambs achieved a top price of £49 from E C P Jones & Son Manor Farm. Theave lambs achieved a top price of £44 from E K Meredith Lodge Farm.

An entry of 14 In Lamb ewes. 13 full mouth Suffolk ewes scanned mostly doubles with the remainder singles achieving £101 from Messrs

Roberts Longlands and one mule full mouth ewe scanned with quads achieved £88 from J T Francis Penygær.

Next sale of Store lambs and In Lamb Ewes on Monday 31st December 2012.

**DAIRY COWS**

An entry of 16 Dairy Cattle met with a slightly easier trade than a fortnight ago. Nevertheless there was a sound demand with plenty of faces around the ring. Leading the way was a pedigree heifer sired by Lady's-Manor Widman from R & R Corfield & Co Brynnyant which made £2060. At £1700 from the same home was an Autumn ridge daughter giving 28kg. Two Riverdane Sizzler daughter from K S Jones Lane Farm sold for £1950 and £1660. A Woodmarsh Melbourne daughter from T G Phillips & Co Burgeidn sold for £1690. Three heifers from R N Thompson Oak Green sold to a top of £1760. GM & U Thomas Bwlchgyraig sold a Regancrest Diehard heifer for £1750. A breakdown of all prices achieved where as follows: £2000 + 1 lot, £1800 - £2000 1 lot, £1600 - £1800 5 lots, £1400 - £1600 3 lots, £1200 - £1400 3 lots, Less than £1200 2 lots.

**FORTHCOMING SALES:**  
Friday 21st December, In-Lamb Texel Ewes.  
Monday 24th December, MARKET CLOSED.  
Monday 31st December, FULL MARKET  
for all Forms of Fatstock, Dairy Cows, Store Ewes and Store Lambs.  
Monday 7th January, Sale of Cows and Calves.  
Monday 14th January, Sale of Store Cattle and Dairy Cattle.  
Monday 21st January, Sale of Cows and Calves.  
Monday 28th January, Sale of Dairy Cows.  
Tuesday 29th January, Sale of Store Cattle.

**Oswestry cattle auctions****December 12****FAT CATTLE: (78)**

A few more cattle forward today with some very good sorts on offer. But a big difference between lean and meated cattle. Top slots hit 241p for Heifers, 227p for Steers and 205p for Bulls. Highest price in the lump was £1470.00 for a Bull. Bottom book of 127p for a plain friesian bull. A harder trade on the leaner middle cattle but good meated shapely heifers a good firm trade. An overall average of 180p was achieved.

**Young Bulls (26) Overall Average 172.5p.**

**Light Bulls (5) Average 140p (£585/head)** Selling to 150p from H W & D A Davies Tynant.

**Medium Bulls (15) Average 169p (£850/head)** Selling to 200p from A M Jones Middle Farm.

**Heavy Bulls (6) Average 197.5p (£1245/head)** Selling to 205p from H Howells Tynyrtwa.

**Steers (16) Overall Average 174.5p.**

**Medium Steers (2) Average 185.5p (£940/head)** Selling to 207p from W H Edwards & Co Highgate.

**Heavy Steers (14) Average 173p (£1040/head)** Selling to 227p from Neuaddgoch Farms.

**Heifers (36) Overall Average 188p.**

**Medium Heifers (5) Average 183.5p (£830/head)** Selling to 204p from I Davies Gwernylwch.

**Heavy Heifers (31) Average 189p (£1040/head)**

Selling to 241p from S M Rowlands Dolwen Farm.

A good trade, but to have a real trade these cattle have got to be good meat, big belly and too fat are harder work. Thank you for your support.

**FAT LAMBS: (2310)**

A reduced entry of 2310 fat lambs on Wednesday 14th November 2012. The reason behind the reduced entry was the easier trade during the week. The overall and SQQ average was 143.5p/kg. 252 light lambs levelled at 122p/kg with the top price being 130p/kg from E R Evans Llwynnglas with 30kg lambs making £39. 797 standard lambs averaged 136p/kg with the hardy type hard sold. Top price was £62.50 for 39kg lambs from D Morris Parkside. 1036 medium lambs levelled at a respectable 151.5p/kg with the top being 170p/kg for 43kg lambs making £73 from T H Williams Bwlchgolau Heavy lambs levelled at 145p/kg with the top call being £77.20 from D W & L M Jones Bwlch.

**Superlights to 120p Lights to 130p average 122p, Standards to 160p average 136p, Mediums to 170p average 151.5p, Heavy's to 155p average 145p, Others to 146p average 142p. Overall average 143.5p.**

**FAT EWES: (482)**

Ewes to £112.00 average £32.00, Rams to £99.00, average £45.00.

Please Note : All sheep entering the Market must be tagged.

**CALVES: (73)**

The largest entry for quite some time selling to another variable trade with only the few best attracting any firm bid-

ding. Best friesians keenly contested, killers less money. British Blue Bulls topping at £355 from Messrs Evans Halton Farm. Limousin Bulls to £318 from Messrs Jones Ladyhill £315 from Messrs Williams Lightwood Hall £282 from Messrs Lloyd Roberts Pennant Farm. Limousin Heifers to £265 from Messrs Jones Ladyhill Farm £258 £255 & £254 from Messrs Williams Lightwood Hall. Simmental Heifers to £286 from Messrs James Church Farm. Hereford Heifers to £224 Hereford Bulls to £200 from Messrs Edwards Tynymaes.

Friesian Bulls to £170 from Messrs Jones Moreton Farm £154 & £125 from Messrs Morris Ceunant £132 £128 £120 & £102 from Messrs Jones Llyneal Hall £75 from Messrs Owen Tanycoed.

**STORE CATTLE: (158)**

A similar entry forward met with a sharper trade. Top price of the day went to a Simmental x steer aged

23 months sold by A H Webster, Ruthin for £1100 (169p/kg).

68 steers averaged £850/head (184p/kg) with notable prices including:

C E & G J Roberts, Llanrhaeadr presented an excellent run of Limousin x steers aged 6-7 months selling for £860 (232p/kg), £700 (226p/kg), £660 (213p/kg) and £650 (217p/kg).

£1030 (213p/kg) paid for 3 Limousin x steers aged 18-19 months sold by J G & E M Jones, Penybontfawr.

£1085 (209p/kg) paid for a Limousin x steer aged 18 months sold by I & G

Jones, Llanrhaeadr.

71 heifers averaged £731 (180p/kg) with notable prices including:

£700 (212p/kg) paid for a pair of Limousin x heifers aged 14 & 17 months sold by R N Ellis, Nantmawr.

£740 (208p/kg) paid for a pair of Limousin x heifers aged 17 months sold by D A Davies, Llanidloes.

An excellent entry of store bulls met with a spirited trade with notable prices including:

J Tomlinson, Llanrhaeadr sold Limousin x bulls aged 6-7 months for £635 x 2 (212 & 192p/kg), £625

(202p/kg), £605 (202p/kg) and £620 (188p/kg).

G Ellett, Llanrhaeadr sold Limousin x bulls aged 6-8 months for £730 x 2 (197p/kg & 192p/kg), £710 (197p/kg), £700 (206p/kg), £655 (211p/kg) & £600 (200p/kg).

Entries are invited for our next catalogued sale to be held on the 28th November.

**U72 & CULL COWS: (61)**

A good entry of 61 OTM cattle met with a strong competitive trade, suckler bred cows topped at 147p with many in the 140p and several over the £1000.00 mark, Bulls to £1103.00.

U72m steers to 194p or £1237.00 Heifers to 173p or £1036.00 and Cows to 125p or £1010.00. overall average of £701 or 86 - 108p/kg with a bottom slot of 66p for a cold old cow.

If any vendor has changed their Farm Assured details please could you notify the market office 01691 653547 so our database can be updated. Many thanks.

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## MOTORING

# Chevrolet pulls its weight for towing

**WHEN the Caravan Club comes knocking with the award for the best tow car of the year it's time to get the champagne on ice.**

So it's little wonder bosses at Chevrolet have been raising a glass or two following the news that the Captiva has won the best All-Wheel-Drive over 1800kg.

The full blooded compact SUV was given

**DRIVE TIME**  
with Graham Breeze



a major makeover in 2011, including a fresh exterior design.

There's a new range powerful and fuel efficient engines; chassis modifications to

improve ride and handling and an upgraded interior.

Daniel Gregorious, national sales and operations manager at Chevrolet said: "We launched a 'Safe Towing Guide' for drivers this summer which has proved very popular, and we know many people who buy Captiva do so with towing in mind."

"We are really pleased the judges recognised Captiva's capabilities in this competitive sector."

I wasn't towing but I was fully loaded for a weekend away of golf and shopping in Stratford and the Captiva proved the ideal vehicle for the job with a massive boot.

There was some body lean but generally the Captiva performed really well with lots of grip when it's needed and enough power to get through slow moving traffic.

## Refinements

Passengers complained of a hard ride in the back seats and I wouldn't have wanted to travel as a rear seat occupant in seven seat format – simply not enough leg room for the average adult and a bit tight for the kids too.

Front cabin passengers travel comfortably, though I would have expected a few more refinements for the price.

**"There was some body lean but generally the Captiva performed really well with lots of grip when it's needed"**

In association with **motors** .co.uk



Passengers complained of a hard ride in the back seat

The good news is that whichever Captiva you chose the standard safety kit includes stability control and six airbags and the car achieved a five-star crash rating from Euro NCAP.

There's that high driving position that 4X4 drivers demand and any amount of steering and seat adjustment to get you into the right driving position.

On the security front, you're provided with an alarm and immobiliser.

Even entry-level LS cars come with alloys, air-con, Bluetooth, remote locking and four powered windows.

LT cars add an extra pair of seats and four-wheel drive, as well as climate control, part-leather trim, cruise control, parking sensors and automatic lights and wipers.

The LTZ range-topper on test got full leather, sat-nav and a brilliant reversing camera – one of the best I've seen.

I would question Chevrolet's pricing of the Captiva though. The two wheel drive version starts at just over £22,000 but for four wheel drive you have to pay over £28,000 and the test car sold at just under £31,000.

That's an awful lot when you look at the competition out there.



There is a brilliant reversing camera

## BUMPER TO BUMPER

### CHEVROLET CAPTIVA

Model: 2.2LTZ VCDi  
Cost: £30,955  
Top speed: 124mph  
0-60mph: 9.6secs  
Combined fuel: 42.8mpg  
CO2 emissions: 174 g/km  
Insurance Grp: 32



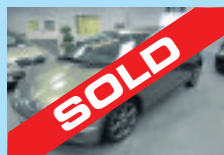
The compact SUV was given a major makeover in 2011

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2009 SE VOLVO S40 2.0 T143hp 4-door. Blue Metallic, 1 owner, only 8,000 miles from new £10,999



2006 SE BMW 318i M-SPORT CONVERTIBLE Manual, only 38,000 miles, immobla Red, FSH £9,999

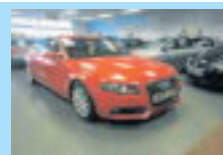


2008 SE SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI ELEGANCE Estate, DSG Automatic, Metallic Green, FSH £9,999



2007 SE AUDI RS4 SALOON 6 speed, Manual. Avis Blue Metallic, Graphite alloy wheels, full leather, sat nav, fully loaded, must be seen, 32,000 miles, FSH £24,499

2007 57	AUDI RS4 SALOON 6 speed, Manual. Avis Blue Metallic, Graphite alloy wheels, full leather, sat nav, fully loaded, must be seen, 32,000 miles, FSH	£24,499
2010 10	AUDI A4 2.0 TDI AVANTE SE 143HP 6 speed Manual. Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£13,999
2009 59	AUDI A4 2.0 TDI SE SALOON SE 140 bhp. Bright Red, 35,000 miles, one owner, manual 6 speed, FSH	£13,999
2010 10	AUDI A4 2.0 TDI SE AVANT 6-speed Manual 140bhp. Metallic Silver, 64,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2009 59	AUDI A3 SPORTBACK 2.0 TDI 5-door. Bright Red, 44,000 miles	£12,999
2011 11	BMW 116 d M-SPORT, 5-door. White, Manual, 18,000 miles, £30 a year tax + duty	£15,499
2009 58	BMW 320d SE Coupe Auto. Platinum Bronze Metallic, one owner, 56,000 miles, FSH	£13,999
2007 57	BMW 120d SE Coupe 6 speed Manual. Metallic Grey, 50,000 miles, FSH	£11,999
2006 06	BMW 318i M-SPORT CONVERTIBLE Manual, only 38,000 miles, immobla Red, FSH	£9,999
2011 11	BMW 320d SE 6-speed Manual 184BHP. Metallic Red, 14,000 miles, one owner, FSH	£18,499
2009 59	CITROEN C3 PICASSO 1.6 HDi Metallic Red, £30 a year tax, 18,000 miles	£7,699
2009 59	CITROEN C3 1.4 HDi AIRDREAM 5-door. Metallic Silver, 30 a year Road Tax, 1 owner	£6,999
2009 09	FORD FUSION 1.4 TDCi ZETEC Manual, 27,000 miles, 1 owner, £30 road tax, Metallic Blue	£7,299
2006 56	FIAT PUNTO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE 5-door. Metallic Blue, 20,000 miles, FSH	£4,499
2009 09	FORD FUSION ZETEC 1.4 TDCi 5-door. Blue Metallic, 27,000 miles, one owner, £30 a year road tax	£7,499
2007 56	FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.6 Manual. Metallic Silver, 35,000 miles	£4,999
2009 59	FORD MONDEO TDCi ZETEC 6 Speed Manual. Blue Metallic, 27,000 miles, 1 owner, FSH	£9,999
2005 05	HONDA JAZZ 1.2 S 5-door Manual. Black, 68,000 miles, FSH	£3,999
2009 59	KIA CEE'D 1.6 LS 5-door Diesel. Metallic Blue, 33,000 miles, 1 owners	£8,499
2009 59	KIA SOUL 2.1 5-dr. 1 owner, Metallic Silver, 12,000 miles	£8,499
2004 04	MAZDA MX5 1.8 Manual, only 38,000 miles, Metallic Silver, FSH	£4,299
2008 08	MERCEDES A150 CLASSIC SE 5-door. Metallic Blue, manual, 1 owner, 18,000 miles	£7,499
2003 53	MERCEDES SLK 200 COMPRESSOR Metallic Black, 2 tone, leather interior, FSH, 100,000 miles auto	£6,499
2005 05	MINI COOPER S 1.6 5-door, Metallic Silver, 75,000 miles	SOLD
2005 55	NISSAN PRIMESTAR Camper Van 2.7 DCi 6 speed Manual. Brand new camper conversion by Gee Wagen, 57,000 miles	£11,999
2009 59	NISSAN NOTE VISIA 1.6 Auto 5-dr. 1 owner, 24,000 miles	£6,999
2009 59	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCi ACCENTA 5-door. Metallic Blue, 32,000 miles, FSH	£10,999
2005 05	NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.2 DCi SVE Manual, Only 41,000 miles, Sat Nav, Full Black Leather, Metallic Silver, FSH	£7,999
2009 59	PEUGEOT 107 990cc 5-door. Red, 10,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner, £20 a year Road Tax	£6,499
1999 V	PEUGEOT 206 2.0 HDi MERIDIAN 5-door. Silver Metallic, 75,000 miles, 12 months MOT	£1,499
2001 Y	NISSAN MICRA 1.4 3 door	SOLD
2006 56	PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi Sport 5-door Manual. Bright Red, 74,000 miles, £30 a year Road Tax	£4,250
2004 04	PORSCHE CARRERA 4s 4X4, 4 Wheel Drive. Silver Metallic, Grey Leather, 46,000 miles, FSH, must be seen	REDUCED £24,999
2009 59	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE EXTREME 5-door. Metallic Blue, 9,000 miles, 1 owner	£7,299
2005 55	RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 Hatchback Manual. Metallic Silver, 90,000 miles	£2,499
2009 59	RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 HATCHBACK 5-door. Metallic Red, 24,000 miles, 1 owner	£6,999
2009 59	RENAULT CLIO 16v EXPRESSION 5-door. Metallic Silver, 25,000 miles	£6,499
2009 59	SEAT Ibiza 1.6 SPORT 5-door. Metallic Grey, 24,000 miles, FSH	£6,999
2009 09	SKODA FABIA 2 1.4 Estate. Blue Metallic, one owner, only 15,000 miles from new	£7,499
2008 08	SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI ELEGANCE Estate, DSG Automatic, Metallic Green, FSH	£8,999
2007 07	TOYOTA AVIS 2.0 TRD Diesel Manual 5-door. Metallic Silver	£5,999
2009 59	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi 5-door. Grey Metallic, 24,000 miles, FSH	£6,499
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2010 60	VAUXHALL COMBO 1.3 CDTI Van. White, only 23,000 miles, FSH, 1 owner	£5,999 + VAT
2006 56	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN 5-door Manual Hatchback Diesel. 47,000 miles	SOLD
2009 59	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRi 3-door. Automatic, Metallic Black, 1 owner, 12,000 miles	£7,499
2008 08	VOLVO XC90 DE SE Geartronic, 7 Seats, 43,000 miles, half leather interior FSH Graphite Grey Metallic	£19,999
2008 58	VW PASSAT 2.0HDI HIGHLINE 140hp ESTATE, 6 speed manual, metallic blue, 84,000 miles, full leather	£7,999
2009 59	VOLVO S40 2.0 T143hp 4-door. Blue Metallic, 1 owner, only 8,000 miles from new	£10,999
2009 09	VW GOLF 2.0 TDI SE 5-door Manual. Metallic Blue, 37,000 miles, one owner	£11,799
2005 55	VW GOLF TDI SE 5-door Manual. Metallic Silver, 94,000 miles	£4,999
2008 58	VW POLO MATCH 1.4 AUTOMATIC 5-door. Black Metallic, 59,000 miles, alloy wheels, privacy glass	£5,999
2003 03	VW POLO 1.4 3-door Manual. Bright Red, 61,000 miles, FSH	£3,250
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# Skoda Superb – say no more

**By Bob Hickman****There will always be a market for huge, load and people carrying vehicles.**

If we think back a few years it used to be the ubiquitous Volvo estate car that was the vehicle of choice by antique dealers, furniture restorers and people who needed to move huge amounts of kit and equipment.

Now entering the market place is Skoda with the Superb, and they really have capitalised on this particular market. If your family or business needs a vehicle capable of moving huge amounts of equipment or people or both, then the Superb has to feature highly on your list.

The Superb has a huge 595 litres of space in the boot and believe me that is a serious amount of space; if you drop the seats that increases to a staggering 1700 litres.

Rear passengers will be over the moon with the amount of room; it is like driving and riding in a limousine. As a six footer with my wife driving the vehicle I was able to fully

stretch my legs out in front of me and there were still 7 or 8 inches of free space. I am convinced I could put a washing machine or a spin dryer on the floor behind the driver's seat, such is the huge space aspect of the Superb.

The Superb looks quite an attractive vehicle, yes it is big, but that is what it is designed to be.

As with all Skodas there are a wide choice of engine derivatives. Petrol choices vary from a diminutive 1.4 litre up to a huge V6 3.6-litre 4 x 4 option. If diesel is the one that does it for you then the Superb is available starting with a 1.6-litre TDi producing 105 bhp which was the unit fitted to my test car and then there are a variable number of 2-litre TDi's with various power outputs and also a 4 x 4 option.

Being Skoda you expect value for money as well as a well built and engineered vehicle and the Superb did not disappoint. The Elegance Green line that I had the option of testing is a well equipped vehicle for its £24,390 recommended price. It had 16" alloy wheels, leather covered steering wheel with multi-functions which included controls for the radio, telephone and sound system, which is always useful. The front seats were electri-

cally operated and have a very useful feature of a memory button, one of those items that you wonder how you ever managed without once you have become used to it. The front seats were also heated.

The vehicle has a stop/start system to both lower the CO and increase the fuel per gallon, a feature of the Green Line derivative. The 1.6-litre turbo charged diesel engine is allegedly producing in the region of 105 bhp which considering the size of the vehicle was more than adequate for all conditions and driving situations.

A 5-speed manual box was a delight to operate, being positive and not sloppy or wishy washy in any of the situations that driving demands. The performance was more than adequate for my needs, Skoda claim a top speed of 119 mph and they suggest a 0 – 60 gallop can be achieved in marginally over 12 ½ seconds. The feature that is impressive however is that Skoda claims a combined figure of 64.2 mpg.

**Astonishment**

We all take these figures with a pinch of salt but to my astonishment in a week of varied terrain driving in Somerset including motorways, big dual carriageways and twisty roads, the computer told me that I had actually achieved 60.2 mpg, a fabulous result for a vehicle of this size. The low CO figure of 114 gm/kgs means a nil rated first year excise duty and then a mere £30 in the second year.

The vehicle never felt daunting or large to actually drive, yes you needed to be a little careful when you park.

Suddenly the size of the vehicle could be intimidating when manoeuvring into parking bays and you certainly need to be careful at supermarkets, where there are clearly defined bays where you to tuck in the vehicle correctly so as not to incur a fixed penalty, for having the front nose or rear section marginally over the white line. But if it was your vehicle you would soon get used to that.

The Superb range available is quite extensive, they start with an S, which is the entry level vehicle, but again the level of specification even on an S is quite high, with alloy wheels, air con and an 8-speaker sound sys-

**Big player – the Skoda Superb runs at an amazing 60mpg over a mixed terrain**

tem, an alarm is also incorporated, so the basic entry vehicle is quite good. The specifications increase with an SE, SE Plus, and the top specification was the Elegance.

There is another very important feature to consider if a Superb could be featuring on your shopping list, and that is the residual value of it.

Buy one now, and two years down the road it will be very, very rewarding to you when you trade in or come to sell it. They are a desirable vehicle and certainly a two-year-old model is a vehicle that dealers will want to buy from you.

The Auto Express Driver Power survey also put them very high on the list, so really if this particular type of vehicle is your necessity i.e. you need a big estate car I would suggest that the Superb could be an option.

The pricing structure for the Superb estate range between £24,830 and £30,910.

**Whale-esque – the massive boot space****A low CO figure of 114 gm/kgs means a nil-rated first year excise duty**

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10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 SRI 26k, Silver	£7995
59 NISSAN NOTE DCI Pure Drive	£6475
57 MONDEO EDGE TDCI Silver	£5395
07 PEUGEOT 207 1.6 SPORT Silver	£4995
06 FORD FOCUS ZETEC TDCI Blue	£5475
06 TOYOTA AVENTIS T3S Auto. 38,000 miles	£5495
06 SUZUKI JIMMY 4x4	£5325
06 BMW 330 Diesel. MSPORT, Blue	£8995
06 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SE Diesel, Blue, 46k	£3995
56 NISSAN MICRA Grey	<b>SOLD</b>
56 PROTON SAVVY, Blue 35,000 Miles	£2750
55 MAZDA RX8, Black, 39k	£3975
55 PEUGEOT 307 XSI 2.0 HDI Diesel, Bronze Met, Leather	£5350
56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£3450
54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr. Silver	£3395
54 CORSA SXI Blue	£1875
54 MG TF Convertible Summer fun, Yellow	£2195
54 VAUXHALL ASTRA CWB, Black	£2575
04 MGZT 1.8 TURBO Blue	£2195
03 CITROEN C5 1.8 Blue, superb throughout	£2750
03 MINI COOPER Silver	£3995
03 VW GOLF 4 MOTION Leather	£3595
03 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO	£2495
03 FORD KA Red, Choice of 2, low miles	£2195
52 SEAT Ibiza TDI Diesel, Black	<b>SOLD</b>
52 FORD FIESTA FINESE, Silver	£1995
02 MINI COOPER, SILVER, PANORAMIC ROOF	<b>SOLD</b>
02 ROVER 25 IMPRESSION Silver, 46k	£1995
X TRANSIT Diesel SWB	£2695
W BMW 530 SE Diesel, Leather, Auto	£3895
V FREELANDER Diesel	£2195
V FOCUS Blue	£1250
T MAZDA MX5 Black Convertible	£2295
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06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN CDTI, SILVER, 6 SPEED, SERVICE HISTORY, 68K	£5,995
09 CORSA 1.4 DESIGN, ALLOY WHEELS, FSH, 35K	£5,995
09 VAUXHALL AGILA DESIGN, 5DR, GREEN MET, VERY NICE CAR, 23K	£5,750
08 FIESTA GHIA 1.6, 5DR, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON, 52K	£4,995
06 MONDEO 2.2 TD CI ZETEC, BLACK, SAT NAV, CRUISE CONTROL, FSH, 66K, NOW	£4,695
07 CITROEN CX SX AUTO 1.6, ALLOY WHEELS, AC, CD, SERVICE HISTORY, 28K	£4,575
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57 FIESTA 1.2 STYLE CLIMATE, 3 DOOR, FSH, AIR CON, 56K	£4,495
58 PEUGEOT 107 KISS, 3DR, CD PLAYER, ELEC. WIND., RED, ROAD TAX ONLY £20, 42K	£4,395
07 GRAND PUNTO 1.2, 3 DR, CD, PAS, ABS, ONE OWNER, SERV. HISTORY, ONLY 26K, NOW	£3,995
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02 PEUGEOT 106 INDEPENDENCE 1.1, PAS, 64K

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57 TRANSIT MWB HIGH TOP, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, 62K

58 VAUXHALL VIVARO 2700 CDTI, SWB, CD, SIDE DOOR, WHITE, EURO 4, 63K

07 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY SDI, DARK BLUE, SIDE DOOR, CD, AC, VERY CLEAN VAN, (EURO 4), 43K

59 PEUGEOT PARTNER HDI, SIDE DOOR, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, WHITE 53K

58 VAUXHALL ASTRA CDTI, CLUB, 72K

56 PEUGEOT PARTNER LX HDI, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, ONLY 33K

58 PEUGEOT EXPERT SWB HDI, TWIN SIDE DOORS, WHITE, SERVICE HISTORY, 76K, ONE OWNER

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## SPORT

## College's boys team lose out in tennis final

YOUNG tennis stars from Ellesmere College reached the National Finals to represent the Midlands in the AEGON National Schools Championships.

The team of pupils from year 10 played against teams from the northern, south east, and south west sections.

Having won the county title and regional qualifiers the team of Sammy Leung, Ole Linne, Aaron Sham and Aleksandras Calovas then went into the regional finals at Warwick University.

In the regional finals unseeded Ellesmere upset top seeds Minster School in the opening round after a narrow 7-6 shootout win and then went on to defeat number two seeds Lancaster School in the Year 10 Boys Midlands Finals to earn their place at the National Finals.

## Competition

Matt Byford, Circuit Director for AEGON Team Tennis Schools commented "The Year 8 and 10 quarter finals have been a real success and it's been great to see 64 schools tennis teams gather to compete on a regional level after their efforts over the summer and autumn terms."

Over 2,400 teams entered the 2012 competition and by the quarter final stage of the competition the 16 teams that remain are very strong schools tennis teams with a number of the top junior players in the country on court.

In the final, held at the Bolton arena Ellesmere College came up against the High School of Glasgow, University College School, London and Millfield School, Somerset where they narrowly missed out on top spot.

Stephen Welti, Senior Performance Coach at Ellesmere said: "this is a very exciting time for our tennis academy, the standard in the finals was very high and the boys rose to the challenge."

"Our girls teams also performed very well this year making it to the quarter-final stage of the regional finals, everybody has played brilliantly."

## Academy is looking to boost golf

A GOLF professional who played with Oswestry's Ian Wosnam on the European Tour is launching a new golf academy.

PGA Master Professional Keith Williams is launching the academy at Hawkstone Park Golf Club, where Sandy lyle played.

To mark the launch there is a special open day to give would-be golfers the chance to try the sport for free. Keith will lead a team offering taster sessions and expert coaching.

He arrives at the club - in Weston under Redcastle, near Shrewsbury - with an impressive pedigree in a career spanning 30 years.

The open day will take place on Thursday, December 27 (10am-1pm).

It is open to beginners and non-club member golfers and will suit families, couples or individuals. Would-be golfers can 'arrive and play', while all equipment and balls are free.

For further details contact 01948 841775 or email Keith at keithuacoch@aol.com

## Artificial pitches could be the norm in Wales

UNDER a revolutionary FA of Wales initiative, other clubs could soon join The New Saints by playing on artificial surfaces as grass pitches may become the exception rather than the norm in the Welsh Premier.

The governing body recently acknowledged key recommendations made in a Welsh Assembly enquiry report into the league, which included the provision of the latest-generation plastic pitches to help turn clubs into "community hubs".

In the first tranche of support, the FAW intends to use around £3 million of Uefa hat-trick funding to provide artificial pitches for six clubs, Welsh Premier chairmen were told at a recent meeting.

And there are hopes that the move could trigger matched funding support from the Welsh Assembly to equip the remaining clubs in the league.

The artificial surface does not necessarily

have to be the main playing surface for Welsh Premier fixtures, but must be installed at the same location.

Effectively, this means that several clubs would be forced to switch from grass to plastic for WPL fixtures if they wished to benefit from the FAW's plan, as they do not have sufficient space to install a second, artificial pitch nearby.

Oswestry-based TNS were the first club in the Welsh Premier to install an artificial surface back in 2007 to a mixed reception from players and spectators.

Newtown and Prestatyn Town are among clubs to have already expressed an interest in converting their existing grass surfaces to plastic before the announcement of the FAW's initiative.

Airbus UK hope to install an artificial surface alongside their main pitch in Broughton as part of a ground redevelopment

ment in conjunction with the FAW Trust, while plans for Port Talbot to share a new stadium and artificial pitch with Aberavon Rugby look set to come to fruition in the near future.

Two clubs in the Danske Bank Premiership in northern Ireland - Cliftonville and Crusaders - currently play on artificial surfaces while, in Scotland, Airdrie United and Alloa Athletic have had the surfaces installed to combat the winter weather.

## Community

The artificial surface does not necessarily have to be the main playing surface for Welsh Premier fixtures.

In its submission to the WAG enquiry, the FAW said: "Due to the fact that 3G/4G pitches generate income, no further investment would be required once the nine-year life span of each pitch came to an end."

"The total, one off investment, to introduce 3G/4G pitches to all WPL clubs, either as first team pitches or training facilities for club and community would cost a maximum of £5 million."

"The perfect model for this has been proven at Crusaders in Northern Ireland."

"The government paid 75 per cent of the 4G costs - gave the club the responsibility of managing and maintaining the pitch - but demanded that local schools were allowed free allocated access to the facility on a weekly basis."

"Every party involved has reaped benefit from the new arrangement."

"This 3G/4G strategy with the 12 WPL clubs becoming community hubs for all sections of society would benefit and strengthen community links, health, civil obedience and make the clubs far more sustainable."

## Young athletes honoured after season of hard work



Winners are James Morris, Cameron van Onselen, Joe Morris and Jacob Tidridge



Members of the Oswestry Olympians Junior section with their certificates and awards at the annual presentation evening held at the Oswestry Rugby Club



Abi Bowers with her Welsh Champion trophy

## MORE than 70 athletes and their families packed into Oswestry Rugby Club for the annual Oswestry Olympians Juniors Presentation Evening.

There were certificates of achievement for all youngsters who had trained for and competed in competitions throughout the year at cross country, Sportshall and track and field athletics.

There was a special award for Matthew Jones to celebrate his success in gaining a Welsh vest as he competed in the 400m and 4x400m Relay for Wales at the School's International Athletics Board competition in Kent.

There were also trophies for Kez Ogden, Cameron Dixon and Leo Read who all represented Shropshire Schools at the English Schools Track and Field Finals in Gateshead.

## Championships

Abi Bowers also celebrated her achievements at the Welsh Athletics Championships in Cardiff as she won gold in the 75m Hurdles over the Jubilee weekend to become Welsh champion and win the Colin Jackson hurdles cup for best performance at the championships.

The Doug Morris Memorial Cross Country Awards were presented to Jacob Tidridge (U11), Cameron van Onselen (U13), James Morris (U15) and Joe Morris (U17), whilst there were prizes for record-breakers Molly Roberts (U11 Girls Cricket Ball Throw), Leo Read (U15 Boys 80m Hurdles) and Cameron Dixon (U20 Men 400m Hurdles).

For consistent effort and enthusiasm and all-round team spirit, Anna Holbrook won the U11's Lee Morris Memorial Shield whilst Callum Jones was awarded the U13's Simon Booth Memorial trophy.

## Head coach will give keynote speech at county's second rugby conference

THE Head Coach of England Women's Rugby, Gary Street, is to be the keynote speaker at Shropshire Rugby Development Group's (SRDG) second S12 conference on Sunday, September 22, 2013.

The conference will once again take place at Harper Adams College near Newport.

A highly-regarded former scrum half, Gary Street played for Aston Old Edwardians for 18 years and as a coach soon pro-

gressed through the women's international ranks, taking charge of England Students, Under-18s, Academy and Sevens teams.

He became Head Coach of the full England Women's Rugby team in 2007, having spent a year as Assistant Coach alongside Geoff Richards.

Since then he has led England to five consecutive Six Nations championship victories, including four Grand Slams, and also

the final of the 2010 Women's Rugby World Cup where England narrowly missed out on the top honours with a 13-10 defeat to New Zealand.

Rae Evans, Secretary of SRDG, said: "It is quite a coup to get Gary to come along to our event. He is a highly-rated and very successful coach who will be able to give our youth team coaches a real insight into the game and player development."

"Last year's conference was a great success and we are hoping even more coaches will come along in 2013 and learn from Gary and the other experienced coaches."

The inaugural S12 event, attracted 74 coaches from Shropshire's 12 RFU-affiliated clubs and schools right across the county. It was the first dedicated youth-coaching conference to be held in Shropshire.

## TABLES

## Mercian League

## PREMIER DIVISION

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Church Stretton	16	4	4	29	30	28
FC Hodnet	14	8	4	24	13	26
AFC Ludlow	10	8	1	31	12	25
Morda United	13	7	7	29	17	24
Shifnal United	17	8	6	28	27	23
Telford Juniors	12	6	3	19	15	21
Allscott	14	6	6	34	27	20
Oakenfold	14	6	6	31	25	20
Ketley Bank Utd	15	6	8	22	32	20
Wellington Am R	13	4	7	18	26	14
Whitchurch Alp R	12	2	7	18	32	9
Weston Rhyll	14	2	10	13	28	8
Dawley Town	8	1	6	4	21	4

## DIVISION 1

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ketley Town	18	16	2	95	24	48
Rock Rovers FC	15	11	1	66	25	36
Madley Sports	16	11	3	52	17	35
Oswestry Lions	16	11	3	54	27	35
Pres FC	15	11	4	61	27	33
Bishops Cleeve T	16	9	3	39	29	31
Wroter Rovers	14	8	4	48	28	25
Brown Clee	15	6	8	32	40	19
Oswestry BC	14	5	6	27	26	18
Oswestry BC	14	5	6	27	26	18
Meole Brace	17	3	12	27	62	11
Morda Utd Res	13	3	9	22	50	10
Hopetown Utd	14	3	11	29	52	9
Shrewsbury Utd Res	17	2	15	11	76	6
Wrock Wood Jun	14	1	13	18	82	3

## DIVISION 2

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Childs Errall	17	15	1	88	16	46
Oakenfold Rng	16	14	1	63	19	43
Market D'On Tigers	17	12	3	39	18	38
Claverley	17	12	5	68	31	36
AFC Wellington	16	11	4	81	31	34
Athletic Broseley	15	9	5	49	31	28
Edgmont Rangers	16	7	4	45	27	26
Wrock Wood	14	7	6	49	27	22
Randley 2012	15	7	7	41	34	22
Dorington S&S	15	7	5	43	33	21
Impact	17	7	10	35	45	21
Highley Miners	15	5	9	37	48	16
Madley Sports Res	15	5	12	32	57	9
Albrighton Juniors	16	2	14	21	62	6
Spallig Britannia	16	2	14	19	98	6
Denso	17	0	17	6	126	0

## Spar Mid Wales League

## DIVISION 1

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanidloes	13	11	1	68	16	34
Four Crosses	15	10	2	39	19	33
Baith Wells	15	9	3	38	25	30
Aberavon	14	8	3	31	24	29
Berriew	17	7	5	40	23	26
Tywyn/Brynurug	13	8	5	37	26	24
Waterloo	13	7	4	31	23	23
Llanantffraid	14	6	5	40	27	21
Bow Street	13	5	4	37	33	19
Aber Uthi	13	6	6	30	26	19
Newbridge	14	5	12	30	31	18
Montgomery	10	5	2	28	12	18
Welshpool	18	4	13	29	62	13
Carno	13	3	9	18	30	10
Dwynn Banw	13	2	14	17	75	6
Dolgellau	16	1	15	11	70	3

## DIVISION 2

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Llanfair Utd	11	10	0	43	6	31
L'vindod Wells	11	10	1	39	7	30
Kerry	13	7	5	20	21	22
Knignton	12	5	3	31	23	18
Rhosgogh	14	4	5	34	29	17
Hay St Marys	13	5	6	40	42	17
Presleigne	11	4	3	32	34	15
Talgarth	14	4	7	24	36	15
Abermule	12	3	7	22	36	11
Aberdyfi	13	3	8	25	43	11
Bont	12	3	7	20	40	11
Machynlleth	10	3	6	23	34	10
Llanfyllin	8	2	3	17	19	9

## Welshpool Dominoes

## DIVISION 1

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Social Club A	13	11	2	64	27	33
Celts	13	9	4	60	31	27
Pinewood A	13	9	4	55	36	27
Pinewood C	13	9	4	54	37	27
Compasses	13	8	5	53	38	24
Waterloo	13	7	6	48	43	21
G'Dragon Butt B	13	6	7	44	47	18
Sun Inn	13	5	8	42	49	15
Pinewood Dragons	13	5	8	40	51	15
G'Dragon Butt A	13	4	9	36	55	12
Cock P/A	12	4	8	32	52	12
Bowling Club	13	4	9	32	59	12
Powis Arms P/V	9	3	10	28	63	9

## DIVISION 2

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cock A	14	11	3	67	31	33
Railway	14	11	3	66	32	33
Westwood	14	9	5	60	38	27
Kings Head	14	9	5	57	41	27
Angel	14	8	6	50	48	24
Talbot	13	7	6	49	42	21
Westwood Wand	14	7	7	49	49	21
Grapes	13	8	5	48	43	21
Murles Bunch	14	7	7	47	49	21
Horseshoe	14	6	8	43	53	18
RAF Boys	14	5	9	42	56	15
The Real Railway	14	5	9	41	57	15
Breidden	14	3	11	35	63	9
Wellington	14	1	13	23	75	3

## Huws Gray Alliance

## DIVISION 1

Club	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Rhyll	15	13	0	59	15	41
Caerswys	16	13	2	57	12	40
Cefn Druids	15	9	3	33	16	30
Conwy Borough	16	4	4	26	30	16
Flint Town Utd	15	8	4	36	23	27
Holyhead Hotspur	15	8	6	29	27	25
Buckley Town	15	5	4	25	16	21
Guildfield C	15	6	7	27	30	20
Porthmadog	17	5	8	27	30	19
Llandudno	17	5	9	17	33	18
Rhayader Town	15	5	8	24	34	17
Pennrhynoch	15	4	7	21	32	16
Rhydyddyn	17	4	9	30	61	16
Parysgae	15	5	9	21	43	14
Llanhaeadr	16	2	10	17	50	10
Ruthin Town	16	2	12	25	34	8

## Shropshire Chess League

## DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Telepost A.....	7	6	0	24.5	9.5	13
Newport A.....	7	6	0	12.5	10.5	12
Shifnal & Telford A....	7	3	2	22.0	14.5	8
Shrewsbury A.....	7	3	2	20	15	8
Priorslee Lions A....	7	2	3	17.5	17.5	6
Church Stretton A....	7	2	4	15.5	19.5	5
Shifnal & Telford B....	7	1	6	11	24	2
Telepost B.....	7	1	6	5.5	28.5	2
DIVISION 3						



## SPORT

### TNS ladies battle way to draw in big clash

IT was honours even as TNS Ladies drew 2-2 with Allscott Ladies in the West Midlands Regional Womens League—a clash between the top two Shropshire sides.

Both sides played sharp, passing football it was not to end action from the off at Park Hall, with Jamie Dugan in the TNS goal making some good early saves.

Allscott's keeper Bev Highfield had to come out of her goal quickly a few times to cut out the threat of Jade Hill but the latter made the breakthrough when jumping the highest to score a rare header from a lofted ball.

However, the visitors were back on level terms within a minute when Julie Stirrup received a ball on the edge of the TNS box, beat her player and hit a shot into the top corner.

#### Punishment

And they were ahead at the interval when Isha Alsadek receive a great ball out on the right and crossed for Kim James who showed great composure to chip her shot over the keeper.

In the second half TNS were quickest out of the blocks and forced keeper Highfield into a few vital saves but she was beaten when a shot skidded across the artificial surface and into the net.

Allscott felt aggrieved that they had a player sent off when TNS's player escaped any form of punishment, while the remainder of the game was hectic, as Allscott struggled to keep possession and TNS pushed for a winner.

The final 2-2 result in what was a very hard fought draw would surely be seen as a fair result by both managers.

The draw sees Allscott unbeaten in three games and up to eighth in the league table, one place above TNS on goal difference only, with both having 10 points.

### Calum's on way up the rugby tree



Skipper Calum Jones

CALUM Jones, a third form pupil at Oswestry School, has been celebrating after he was recently selected by Oswestry Rugby and Football Club to take part in the Shropshire Masterclass.

His obvious talents were spotted during the event and he received an invitation to trial for the Shropshire Under 14's.

The trial was held at Shrewsbury School with around 60 hopefuls competing for a place in the 30 man squad.

And not only did Calum secure a place on the squad but the first training session saw him selected as captain for the under 14's.

Welsh Exiles, who act as a Welsh Rugby Union selection pathway, have also provided Calum with the opportunity to trial for them. Early indications are that he has been successful but results will not be received for a few weeks.



Some of the Marches School swimmers at Moreton Hall. Back from left are Ben Balcombe, Adam Stevens, Charlie Woolhouse, Emma Kelly and Rhianne Lloyd. Front, from left, Toby Roberts, Charlotte Laundy, Tom Gregory and Rebecca Stafford-Lawrence.

### School's squad enjoys success across the board at swim gala

THE Marches School Swimming Squad recently travelled to Moreton Hall to compete in the North Shropshire Swimming Gala and had a day to remember.

The squad secured top three placings in each of the age categories in both the male and female competitions.

The girls under 13, under 15 and under 19 teams all swam to respectable third placings overall.

Members of the under 13 squad secured first place positions in the backstroke (Naomi Chapman), freestyle (Naomi Chapman), butterfly (Lauren Griffiths), individual medley (Lauren Griffiths) and breaststroke (Chloe Michie).

In the under 15 girl's heats, Emily Ball secured impressive first place positions in the butterfly and individual medley, as did Hannah Greig in the backstroke and

freestyle races. Rhianne Lloyd rounded the girls performances off with a convincing win in the under 19 backstroke.

The under 13 boys team of Danny Williams, Lewis Stuart, Max Lowry and George Garratt finished second place overall, with George Garratt finishing in top position in the under 13 butterfly.

The under 15 team of Ben Balcombe, Thomas Evans, Miles Bailey and Alex Keir and the under 19 team of Adam Stevens, Toby Roberts, Charlie Woolhouse and Tom Gregory both secured impressive first place positions overall, with Toby Roberts taking first in the freestyle and backstroke.

PE teacher Gareth Jones said: "All teams represented the School with pride and passion."

"They were both gracious in victory and defeat and deserved their success."

# COBRA into fourth round as they take charge in the mud

#### COBRA 16 Colwyn Bay 5

COBRA kept their interest alive in the Swalec Bowl after progressing to the fourth round with a competent 16-5 victory over Colwyn Bay in a mud-filled affair.

The Meifod men were always in charge in the heavy conditions as they kept their visitors pegged back in their own half with some astute kicking, as three penalties from fly half Llew Williams carved a nine point interval lead.

COBRA then bagged a crucial try after the interval when, latching onto the ball after Bay had dropped out from their own 22, skipper Aled Davies ran 40 yards before releasing scrum half Alwyn Williams to run free and touch down under the posts.

Llew Williams added the conversion before the visitors gained a consolation try late on from close range following a quick tap penalty.

Victory takes the Welsh League division two (north) promotion chasers into the fourth round to be played next month, which is again regionalised. The going was

#### RUGBY by John Bridgwater



tough in the heavy conditions last Saturday after constant rain had fallen on frozen ground the day before, but the pitch was perfectly playable.

Spokesman James Watkin admitted the Llanfair Caereinion side played the conditions perfectly as they progressed with few alarms. "It was wet and muddy,

but we were always in charge," he said. "We did not look to play too much rugby, we concentrated on territory. We kicked well and played a lot of the game in their half, and they scored with the last play of the game."

The next round will take place at the end of January when COBRA will play one of the remaining North Wales sides, which include Llangollen who defeated Newtown 25-15.

If they get through that stage, the Swalec Bowl will then open up for the whole of Wales with the Meifod side looking to have another good run in the competition.

Their next league action in the Welsh League division two (north) is at home to improving Machynlleth on Saturday, January 5, as they bid to maintain their promotion push.

#### Action

Before they entertain Oswestry in the Nick Wiffen Memorial Cup on Saturday, December 29.

Newtown went out of the Swalec Bowl with a 25-15 loss at Llangollen despite both sides bagging three tries.

Wing Junior Dean and centre Josh Harris both scored along with a penalty score, but the Mid Wales men were unable to capitalise on their kicks.

COBRA II, meanwhile, recorded a 44-14 victory over their WELSHPOOL counterparts in the Mid Wales League.

Meanwhile, Welshpool's first team—who had no game last weekend—do not have any action until Saturday, January 5 when they head to lowly Bangor in the Welsh League division three (north).

Pool originally had a fixture at Menai Bridge this coming Saturday, but both sides agreed to postpone it until later in the season, most probably in April.

COBRA's youth team came away with a creditable 15-5 win at Ruthin in the North Wales Youth League division one.



COBRA centre Frazer Roberts on the charge in the 16-5 win over Colwyn Bay



COBRA'S Alwyn Williams scores the only try in the 16-5 win over Colwyn Bay

### Stans backing for Rangers



Andrew Faulks from Stans Superstore presents a cheque to John Edge of Ellesmere Rangers Football Club, for the sponsorship of the team's away football kit. A spokesman for Ellesmere Rangers said they are delighted that Stans have supported them once again in this way.

### Entrants flood for top chess contests

SHROPSHIRE'S biggest annual chess competition already has over 50 entries—good going for the week before Christmas—and some super-strong players are lined up to do battle in the Open section.

"It's looking good for a splendid turnout," said Steve Rooney, joint organiser of Shropshire Chess Congress being held on the weekend of January 5 and 6.

The competition has three sections, to cater for all strengths.

The Open is for the very strongest players and has an attractive first prize of £350.

The Major, for players of intermediate strength, and the Minor, for all other players, from novices up to a grading of 125, each have a first prize of £250.

#### Venue

Various other prizes include those for best performance by a junior player, and grading prizes for good performances by players who are weaker on paper than the opposition.

"The Open has two players graded 200-plus, and our regular IM visitor John Cox is hoping to play, so it should make it a good contest at the top."

"The other sections are also building up well with a lot of likely contenders for prizes in the Major and Minor," said Steve.

"As well as additional playing space at the venue this year we will also have a bookstall with the latest books, software, sets and equipment."

"If there are any non-playing partners that would be willing to help us with the bookstall, we would be very keen to hear from them."

"We should also remind people that there is a late entry fee after December 24."

#### Contenders

Competitors in the congress all play five games over the weekend, although they can opt to take a half point bye in one of the first three rounds—Saturday night's round is most often chosen, with players wanting an evening off.

They are paired in each round against an opponent on equal points, so in the final round the contenders for the prizes are going head to head in a dramatic chess showdown.

The event takes place at the premises of Wrekin Housing Trust in Telford town centre.

Entry details are on the Shropshire chess website, [www.shropshirechess.org](http://www.shropshirechess.org).

Shropshire League result: Division Three - Shrewsbury C 1, Oswestry A 3; A Lewis 0, G Ives 1, I Davies 0, A Peile 1; E Inglis 1, R Thomson 0; A Purser 0, J Davies 1.

### Seconds home game called off

OSWESTRY II were sidelined by the rain as their home clash with Marple II in the Ragging Bull North West League division three (south) was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at Granville Park.

Only two games survived in the division, and the lack of action sees the Eagles' second string go into the new year lying fourth from bottom, two places below Marple.

They now take a break from league duties with their next competitive game away to third placed Bowdon on Saturday, January 5.



SPORT

Guilsfield frustrated as match called off

GUILSFIELD'S hopes of making it three wins in a row on home soil in the Cymru Alliance were scuppered by the weather as their home clash with title chasing Rhyl was postponed due to recent frost and heavy rain.

With the surface frozen underneath, water was lying on the top, giving the club little choice but to call the game off early in the morning.

Boss Russell Cadwallader admitted it was frustrating to postpone such an attractive fixture against the high fliers, despite the fact he was unable to call on a full squad.

"It was a shame as it would have been good to have played and, if Rhyl were a bit complacent, we may just have surprised them," he said.

Guilsfield, who still have realistic hopes of making ground on the top six, bid to get back on the pitch on Saturday when they head to Buckley Town before they host Conwy in the following week.

**Planned**

The Guils were down on numbers last week with Ben White having returned to Llanrhaeadr, while Danny Barton was in Denmark.

John Harris was also missing and defender Mike Parry was struggling with an ankle injury. It is hoped Parry, Barton and Harris will return for Saturday's encounter at the Globe Way.

Despite their lack of action, Rhyl remain top as second placed Caersws were also sidelined by the weather as their home clash with Buckley succumbed to a waterlogged pitch.

Guilsfield were hoping to get in some much needed match action last night (wed) when they hosted Llanfechain in the quarter-final of the Montgomeryshire Cup. It is planned to give seven or eight of the first teamers a run out.

LLANRHAEDR, lying second bottom and in need of points, were left kicking their heels last Friday when their trip to Cefn Druids was postponed due to an unfit pitch at the Rock. Only three games survived the weather, with Rhydymwyn easing their basement worries with a vital 3-2 win at rock bottom Ruthin Town.

**Lions fourth after victory**

OSWESTRY Lions lifted themselves up to fourth spot in the Mercian Regional League division one with a convincing 5-0 win over basement strugglers Wrockwardine Wood Juniors.

Having netted 13 goals in their last two outings, Nick Maguire's side are now just one point off second place, and will be out to maintain the momentum when they welcome Meole Brace on Saturday.

**Golf returns**

**Welshpool**

SUNDAY, December 9, Turkey Trail result: 1 Ian Spencer 47, 2 Mal Dutton 47.5, 3 Andy Bowen 47.5

Saturday, December 8, Turkey Trail result: 1 Mark Proctor 29pts, 2 Rob Spragg 28pts, 3 Steve Town 28pts.

**Oswestry**

Christmas Mixed: 1 Harrison Gwilt & Kelly Evans 76-18-57, 2 Oliver Hughes & Nesta Orrells 71-12-58, 3 David Thomas & Victoria Bradbury 64-4-59, 4 Mike Jones & Dyls Jones (President) 76-15-60, 5 Brian Brock & Anita Brock (Ladies' Captain) 81-20-60, 6 John Janicki & Eileen Aubrey 75-14-60.

Slick Rovers cruise into second round of cup

HOLDERS Waterloo Rovers avoided the prospect of an early exit in the Spar Mid Wales League Cup as they progressed to the second round with a 3-1 win at Talgarth.

In one of the few ties to survive the wet weather, Rovers – who beat Llanidloes in the final last season – progressed with a first half goal from Charlie Proctor before Barry Haralambos and Damien Mann settled the issue in the second period.

"It's a cup we are looking to do well in again this season and it was good to get through," said manager Dale Roberts.

"We played well, and it was a good response from the 5-0 defeat to Tywyn the week before which was the worst performance since I've been in charge."

Proctor gave Rovers an interval lead and Haralambos provided a neat half volley finish on the hour after Damien Mann had pulled back. Mann then made it 3-0 when beating the keeper at the second attempt in a scramble before Talgarth gained a deserved consolation.

Victory puts Waterloo in good heart for their two meetings with their local rivals Welshpool over the Christmas break.

While Rovers kept their flag flying, it was the end of the road for Carno who were edged out 1-0 at Builth Wells while Abermule bowed out with a 5-2 loss at Knighton.

Hay St Mary's booked their second round ticket with a 2-0 home passage against Aberdyfi with goals in each half from Phil Davies and Will Goodwin, while Aberystwyth University were edged out 3-2 at Rhosgoch in their last action of the year.

Second division promotion chasers Llan-drindod Wells were made to battle all the way before seeing off Aberaeron 3-2 in their

second round encounter. Elsewhere, heavy rain and frost decimated the league cup programme with a host of first round games called off due to waterlogged pitches.

Among those to be sidelined were high flying Llanidloes Town whose first round clash at struggling Presteigne was postponed due to a saturated surface, the game being rearranged for last night, weather permitting.

**Strugglers**

Promotion chasing Four Crosses were also left kicking their heels at lowly Dyffryn Banw, the tie having now been rescheduled for this Saturday.

Also trying again on Saturday will be Montgomery and Berriew whose first round clash suffered a similar fate following the downpours, while Llanfyllin will also make their trip to fellow strugglers Dolgellau at

the second attempt on the same day. Welshpool Town missed a chance of climbing further clear of the Spar Mid Wales League division one basement zone when they were edged out 1-0 at Tywyn Brynrcrug in the only league game last week.

Boxing Day sees several intriguing league games in the Spar Mid Wales League division one, notably Welshpool Town's home clash with near neighbours Waterloo Rovers while promotion chasing Four Crosses entertain Llanantffraid Village.

Montgomery head for high flying Llanidloes Town, while Berriew will be out to cement their top five standing at the expense of struggling visitors Dyffryn Banw.

In division two, unbeaten leaders Llanfair United will be aiming to tighten their grip at the top when they visit lowly Llanfyllin while Kerry entertain Abermule.

Boss glad match is halted by weather

ST MARTINS were left kicking their heels due to the weather – and boss Derek Stokes admitted he was relieved his side's West Midlands League division one clash at lowly Shenstone Pathfinders was called off.

A combination of freezing temperatures and torrential rain led to the game at second bottom Shenstone to be called off at 10am on Saturday following a pitch inspection.

And Stokes admitted he would have been struggling for a side had it been played as several players had opted to work instead, expecting the game to be called off.

"A lot of the lads took a chance of the game being off so that they could work instead," he said.

"It would have been a disaster had it been played, I don't know what we would have done, so I was quite glad it was called off in the end."

The Saints have not had any action for the past two weeks, but are confident of returning to the pitch on Saturday when they take on lowly Wolverhampton United on the artificial surface at the Venue, Park Hall, as they bid to climb clear of the basement stragglers.

Meanwhile ELLESMERE Rangers' home clash with Stourport Swifts in the Midland Alliance was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

**Casualty**

It proved a frustrating day for OSWESTRY BOYS CLUB whose Mercian Regional League division one clash at home to Rock Rovers was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

In the same division, MORDA United reserves against Hopesgate was also postponed due to an unfit surface.

Morda's first team, looking to make ground on the premier division leaders, were also left kicking their heels as their trip to Oaken-gates was another game to fall victim to the recent bad weather. In fact, only one game in the premier division survived.

Looking to ease their basement worries, second bottom WESTON RHYN'S home clash with Ketley Bank was another casualty of the weather.

Heavy rain falling on already frozen ground made the pitch unplayable, with the match postponed on Friday night, allowing their Telford visitors time to make other arrangements for the weekend.

Weston Rhy'n's club officials were not too unhappy as the team have already played more than their fair share of games at home this season.

They will now reschedule the Ketley home clash in the new year which will help break up a run of away games. Like the rest of the league, Rhy'n take a festive break before returning to duty with a tricky trip to title chasing AFC Ludlow on Saturday, January 5.

**Starting date for winter coaching**

Welshpool Cricket Club's junior section will launch its winter coaching early in the New Year.

Starting on January 13, coaching will then take place every Sunday at the Flash from 4-6pm until March 24 with a cost of £2 per child.

Boys and girls are welcome, and for more details, contact Dave Jones (ECB Level II coach) on dave-jones404@btinternet.com.

Saints go clear at top after tough win at the Steelmen

**Port Talbot 1 The New Saints 3**

THE New Saints moved two points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier after gaining only their second league win in eight attempts at Port Talbot's GenQuip Stadium.

With title rivals Bangor City only managing to draw 2-2 with Carmarthen, it proved a productive day for the Saints who cantered to victory in a game they dominated for long spells despite failing to capitalise on several favourable attacking positions.

Making light of one of their least favourite haunts, a penalty from Alex Darlington separated the sides at half time before a James Bloom own goal and substitute Ryan Fraughan settled matters after the interval.

Ryan Brooks grabbed a consolation for the hosts with a penalty in the last minute.

The Saints started with purpose with some neat movement and passing as they enjoyed the better of the early exchanges, which saw a couple of half chances before Aeron Edwards tried his luck from 25 yards but lifted the ball harmlessly over the bar.

Home stopper Craig Richards was called into his first meaningful save in the 10th minute when saving low from Chris Seargeant after the midfielder had been played in on the left of the box by Mike Wilde.

At the other end, Lee John worked some space on the left but his cross into the goalmouth was headed over his own bar by centre half Steve Evans.

**Header**

A timely headed clearance denied Wilde from Alex Darlington's inviting cross while, from the resulting Seargeant corner on 25 minutes, Evans saw his firm six yard header blocked on the line by Sacha Walters.

Moments later Evans headed narrowly over the bar from another corner as the Saints upped the pressure without reward.

Richards was being kept busy by the defending champions, and was then forced to saved at the feet of Wilde after Seargeant curled a cross into the box from the left on the half hour.

The visitors suffered more frustration on 33 minutes when Seargeant whipped in a free kick from the right, Aeron Edwards could only glance his header across goal which struck the incoming Wilde before rattling the underside of the bar before being cleared.

But the breakthrough finally arrived six minutes from half time when Wilde was tripped in the box by Bloom and Darlington coolly slotted inside the left post, sending keeper Richards the wrong way.

Moments before half time, Finley managed to divert the ball over keeper Morris following a long pass upfield, but the ball rolled harmlessly wide.

But the Oswestry men were still proving the greater attacking threat with Wilde denied by Morris on the hour after being teed up following a strong run into the box from Simon Spender.

Several other promising positions went to waste before the Saints added a third on 68 minutes to effectively wrap up the win when Chris Jones broke down the right before lofting an inviting cross to the far post for substitute Ryan Fraughan to nod in just moments after coming on the pitch.

**Chopped**

Wilde thought he had finally found the net with a fourth when heading in a Fraughan cross from the left late on, but his effort was ruled out by the linesman's offside flag.

And it was the Steelmen who gained a consolation two minutes from time when Chris Marriott was ruled to have chopped down Harling in the box, and Brooks steered home the resulting free kick.

Thomas almost pulled back a second in injury time with a thumping 30 yarder that beat Harrison all ends up, but his strike rattled the bar before being cleared.

League swings back into action



A Cross Foxes player evades an Ironworks tackle during the 12-1 drubbing

NORTH Shropshire Sunday League officials declared their delight as they managed to get games on for the first time in four weeks following their FIFA red-tape row.

The future of the league – which celebrates its 40th anniversary next year – was thrown into doubt after the registrations of more than 60 players barred from turning out in Shropshire without international clearance had to be cancelled.

Oswestry-based Black Lion Colts were forced to resign and several other clubs were unable to field sides because of the rulings restricting players turning out in England and Wales.

But while the league has been cut to eight teams, Oswestry Bell and The Oak have managed to continue after replenishing their squads with new players.

League secretary Roger Candlin said: "We unfortunately lost one of our most organised teams in Black Lion Colts and several others have been affected following the insistence we comply with the FIFA Ruling.

"But after not having a ball kicked since November 18, thankfully were able to stage three games on Sunday."

The highlight of the programme saw leaders Cross Foxes go on a goal rampage

against Ironworks. After dishing out an 11-1 drubbing in the reverse fixture earlier in the season, Foxes went one better this time.

Richard Hardy led the way with a hat-trick in the 12-1 demolition. Richard Harris and Adam Herbert both bagged braces and there were goals for Carl Tomkins, George Harris, Mike Jones, Carl Harris and Mike Lloyd. Rob Wakefield scored a late consolation goal for the Ironworks with a clever lob over Gareth Hardy's head from 30 yards.

Nick Davies struck all three goals as Oswestry Bell cantered to a 3-0 win at The Plough.

Athleico Market enjoyed a comprehensive 4-1 win over The Oak with all the goals coming in the first-half.

Josh Sumner opened the scoring for Market with a well-struck finish from outside the box. And while James Lewis levelled for Oak, an upset was always on the cards when Rob Howard restored the home side's lead.

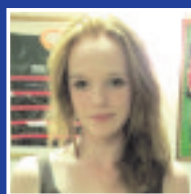
Sumner then grabbed his second and Carl Bailey made it 4-1 before the break.

Oak's misery was complete when Dean Graham's penalty was saved by Dan Becks to round off Market's stellar morning.



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## Mario calls for return to winning mentality

LLANRHAeadr's returning boss Mario Iaquinta is looking for his side to "end the losing mentality" in Saturday's crunch home clash with fellow Cymru Alliance strugglers Rhayader Town (2pm).

"Having lost the last five or six games, it is important to get something from Saturday's game, even if it's a draw," he said. "It's tough, we're punching above our weight in terms of budget, but we need to end the losing mentality."

"It's a massive game for us as we need to stop the losing run, but it's also important to have some fun in the process."

"It will be difficult game as Rhayader are playing well, they're doing enough to stay up."

A glance at the league table shows the importance of Saturday's encounter with Llanrhaeadr lying second from bottom, four points adrift of the next side above them.

### Friendly

Iaquinta has wasted no time in making new signings with Ben White back from Guilsfield while fellow front runner Jamie Evans has also rejoined, although he is waiting on international clearance.

A midfielder with experience in the Welsh Premier could also be on the way to add weight to Llanrhaeadr's quest to avoid relegation.

The villagers have played last Friday at Cefn Druids but the clash was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

In a bid for a run out, Llanrhaeadr were due to have a friendly with St Martins at the Venue last night.

Guilsfield midfielder John Harris, meanwhile, has been linked to a switch to Spar Mid Wales League division one title chasers Four Crosses.

## United through to next round

LLANFAIR United continued their impressive campaign as they stormed into the second round of the Spar Mid Wales League Cup with a 5-0 passage at Llansantffraid Village.

With the tie being rescheduled for midweek after its postponement last Saturday, the second division title chasers opened up a two goal lead through Andrew Hughes and James Davies. Steve Andrew and striker Chris Gethin (2) then sealed the victory for the high flying visitors.

## TNS coach tells his players to be more ruthless



TNS coach Carl Darlington

THE New Saints aim to rediscover their ruthless streak on home surrounds as they bid to consolidate pole position in the Welsh Premier in tomorrow night's clash with GAP Connah's Quay at Park Hall (7.45).

Since their shock home defeat to Carmarthen, the defending champions have notched two timely wins on their travels, 1-0 at title rivals Bangor City and 3-1 at Port Talbot last Saturday, to open up a two point gap at the top.

With their championship rivals not playing until Saturday, the Saints now have a chance to move further clear should they win tomorrow night.

Although their home form has been patchy this season, head coach Carl Darlington knows it's an opportunity the Oswestry side cannot afford to miss.

"Last weekend worked out well for us. We won at Port Talbot, while Bangor drew against Carmarthen, and Airbus and Prestatyn's games were both postponed," he said.

"Friday's a massive game for us as it's chance for us to go five points clear of Bangor and put more pressure on them, it's a chance we need to take," he said.

"Bangor have picked up just one point from their last two games and we have picked up six, but we now need to capitalise on that."

"We know we have to start being more ruthless, and make sure we convert our chances."

He added: "We won't be taking anything for granted as it will be a difficult game as Connah's Quay are on a good run. They have just beaten Llanelli in the Welsh Cup, and have got some good young players. "But our challenge to the players

is to go into Christmas top of the league."

Darlington was happy with last week's 3-1 win at Port Talbot that took the Saints clear at the top, but admitted the visitors failed to build on their early efforts.

"For the first 60 minutes we played exceptionally well, we moved the ball round well, looked comfortable and deserved to be 3-0 up," he added.

"The players deserve a lot of credit for that but, having gone three goals up, we took our foot off the gas a bit thinking that the game was won, and lost a bit of shape."

The Saints can go into tomorrow night's clash with a near full strength squad, the only absentee likely to be last season's top scorer Greg Draper whose frustrating season on the sidelines continued with him missing last week's action due to mouth abscess.

## Morda get go-ahead for lights at ground

MORDA United are looking forward to a bright future - after receiving planning permission for the installation of floodlights.

With the project starting 12 months ago, the Weston Road club submitted their plans back in October which have now been passed by the Shropshire County Council.

The next stage of the project will be to try and secure the funding and grants, which is already underway. Along with this project, the club are looking into enclosing their ground, upgrading the current stand, carrying out major work to the pitch, and looking into the possibility of installing a training pitch at a future date.

"Hopefully, in the future, we will see the club move forward both on and off the pitch and be able to have a facility and football club for the community to be proud of," said manager Craig Rogers.

### Inspection

Meanwhile, both Morda sides were left without action last weekend with the wet weather resulting in their Meridian Regional League games being postponed.

The first team made a wasted journey to Leegomery expecting to face Oakengates Athletic in a premier division clash after a local referee had declared the pitch playable that morning.

However, on arrival, they found standing water in key areas of the pitch and both sides agreed that the match should not take place.

The reserves' first division game with Hopesgate at Weston Road was called off on Friday following a pitch inspection.

Both sides now take a break over the Christmas period with no games until after the New Year, although a friendly may be staged.

## Team in finals

ELLESMERE College's year 10 boys tennis team made it through to the national finals of the AEGON National Schools finals representing the Midlands.

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# TOWN BOSS PLANS ROVERS REVENGE

**WELSHPOOL** Town have a score to settle as they gear up for a festive double header with near-neighbours **Waterloo Rovers** - exactly a year on after a 10-goal defeat brought the club to the attention of national TV.

The two town rivals prepare to meet twice in the space of four days as they chase local bragging rights, and much needed points in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

by John Bridgwater

The first game is on Boxing Day with the Lilywhites having home advantage at Maesydre, before making the short return trip the following Saturday, with Rovers this time the hosts.

And Welshpool will look to put the record straight after last year's 10-1 drubbing on Boxing Day, that led to their score being read out by presenter Jeff Stelling on Sky TV's flagship soccer programme.

It sparked Welshpool manager Dave Jones to write to the producers outlining the club's plight, which led to Stelling vowing to follow the Mid Wales club's fortunes, and subsequent guest appearances of pundits and soccer legends Chris Kamara and Paul Merson in Welshpool colours.

"After losing 10-1 on Boxing Day and the score being read out on Sky and all what happened after that, it'll be fitting if we can win 12 months on," said Jones.

"We know it won't be easy, it's a derby and Waterloo are seventh in the table."

"But we have recently beaten Aberaeron and drawn with Montgomery so we have shown we can compete with the top teams."

"We're fourth from bottom, and with the team we've got, we should now be looking up and not below us. We'd be disappointed if we cannot finish at least a couple of places higher in the table."

The two sides go into the derby game with mixed results last Saturday, with Pool losing 1-0 at Tywyn in the league, while holders Waterloo booked their ticket for the second round of the league cup with a 3-1 win at Talgarth.

### Dominated

After last week's loss, Pool remain fourth from bottom, five points adrift of the next side above them, Newbridge, but are well clear of the basement strugglers.

"We didn't deserve to lose at Tywyn, we played okay on a difficult pitch despite having quite a few missing," added Jones.

An even first half saw Tywyn bag the only goal of the game with a scuffed shot on the half hour mark, while Pool dominated the second period with James Langford heading over and Ross Harris heading into the side netting.

Dan Bowen was sent off for a two-footed challenge 10

minutes from time, meaning he will miss the Waterloo game, while goalkeeper John Gough needed to make a couple of good saves late on as Tywyn caught their visitors on the break.

Waterloo are also looking forward to their two games with their town rivals which should attract a bumper gate to Maesydre.

"It's not ideal playing each other in just a few days, but I can see why it's done as you will get a good crowd at this time of year," said Rovers boss Dale Roberts.

Waterloo go into the double header in good spirits after bouncing back from their dismal 5-0 beating at the hands of Tywyn with a 3-1 success at Rhosgoch in the first round of the league cup, a trophy they lifted last season.

"It was a good response after the Tywyn game the week before which was the worst performance since I've been in charge," added Roberts.

● Sky reporter Johnny Phillips, who covered Welshpool's fortunes for Sky TV last season, plans to include a chapter on the Maesydre club for a new book he is writing.

## Sarah wins first international cap



Sarah Williams, number 97, who has won her first Wales international cap THERE was a special moment for Maldwyn Harriers runner Sarah Williams who gained an international cap when competing for Wales at an international schools pentathlon meet in Glasgow.

Williams, from Montgomery, joined the likes of the Forden's Davies brothers, Tim and Andy, and Gwynant Jones in representing Wales and finished in 15th spot after the five events which included long jump, 60m hurdles, high jump, shot putt and 800m.

Meanwhile, several young Harriers represented their schools or colleges at the recent Welsh inter-schools cross-country championship. Joseph Crutchley (Llanidloes) turned in the most notable performance, winning the U14 Boys title to cap a great year in which he also won the U13 1500m title on the track.

Owen Randell (Welshpool) finished 53rd in the same event. Alex Cawthra (Welshpool) was ninth in the U20 Women's race - a remarkable performance considering she is still only 15 years of age - while Gwynant Jones (Coleg Powys) was 20th in the men's equivalent.

In the U16 boys, Liam Lees (Llanidloes) was 43rd while Meg Randell (Welshpool) was 26th in the U16 girls race. Amy Flanagan-Jones (Caereinion) finished 51st in an U14 girls event which attracted the largest field of the day.

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